

Chaillot Paper

October 2008

n° **112**

EU security and defence

Core documents 2007

Volume VIII

compiled by Catherine Glière



In January 2002 the **European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)** became an autonomous Paris-based agency of the European Union. Following an EU Council Joint Action of 20 July 2001, modified by the Joint Action of 21 December 2006, it is now an integral part of the new structures that will support the further development of the CFSP/ESDP. The Institute's core mission is to provide analyses and recommendations that can be of use and relevance to the formulation of the European security and defence policy. In carrying out that mission, it also acts as an interface between European experts and decision-makers at all levels.

Chaillot Papers are monographs on topical questions written either by a member of the EUISS research team or by outside authors chosen and commissioned by the Institute. Early drafts are normally discussed at a seminar or study group of experts convened by the Institute. Each year the *Core Documents* series provides the Institute's readers with as inclusive a reference work as possible on the EU's decisions and actions in the field of security and defence. *Chaillot Papers* are also accessible via the Institute's website: www.iss.europa.eu

Chaillot Paper

October 2008

n° 112

EU security and
defence

Core documents 2007

Volume VIII

compiled by Catherine Glère

Institute for Security Studies
European Union
Paris

Institute for Security Studies

European Union

43 avenue du Président Wilson

75775 Paris cedex 16

tel.: +33 (0)1 56 89 19 30

fax: +33 (0)1 56 89 19 31

e-mail: info@iss.europa.eu

www.iss.europa.eu

Director: Álvaro de Vasconcelos

© EU Institute for Security Studies 2008. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the EU Institute for Security Studies.

ISSN 1017-7566

ISBN 978-92-9198-130-4

QN-AA-112-EN-C

Published by the EU Institute for Security Studies and printed in Condé-sur-Noireau (France) by Corlet Imprimeur. Graphic design by Claire Mabilie (Paris).

Preface	Álvaro de Vasconcelos	11
----------------	------------------------------	----

Core documents 2007		13
----------------------------	--	----

1 Council External Relations		14
Brussels, 22 January 2007		
<i>Sudan</i>		
<i>Somalia</i>		
<i>Iran</i>		
<i>External relations in energy</i>		
<i>Western Balkans</i>		
<i>Middle East</i>		
2 ESDP – Address by Javier Solana		21
Berlin, 29 January 2007		
3 EDTIB – Speech by Javier Solana		26
Brussels, 1 February 2007		
4 Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statements		29
Washington, 2 and 9 February 2007		
Berlin, 21 February 2007		
21 March 2007		
5 General Affairs and External Relations Council		33
Brussels, 12 February 2007		
<i>ESDP</i>		
<i>Sudan</i>		
<i>Somalia</i>		
<i>Afghanistan</i>		
<i>Western Balkans</i>		
<i>Iran</i>		
<i>Middle East Peace Process</i>		
<i>Lebanon</i>		
6 North Korea – Six Party Talks		39
Brussels, 13 and 14 February 2007		
<i>Comments by Javier Solana</i>		
<i>Declaration by the Presidency</i>		
7 EU Battlegroups		40
Brussels, February 2007		
<i>Factsheet</i>		

Contents

8	Informal meeting of the Defence Ministers	43
	Wiesbaden, 1-2 March 2007	
	<i>Summary of remarks by Javier Solana</i>	
	<i>Factsheet – EUFOR-Althea</i>	
	<i>Background – Kosovo</i>	
	<i>Factsheet – Afghanistan</i>	
9	External Relations Council	56
	Brussels, 5 March 2007	
	<i>Sudan/Darfur</i>	
	<i>Uzbekistan</i>	
	<i>Western Balkans</i>	
	<i>Middle East Peace Process</i>	
	<i>Iran</i>	
10	European Council	60
	Brussels, 8-9 March 2007	
	<i>Presidency Conclusions</i>	
	<i>Annexe I: European Council action Plan (2007-2009) – Energy Policy for Europe (EPE)</i>	
11	Fiftieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome	69
	Berlin, 25 March 2007	
	<i>Declaration</i>	
	<i>Javier Solana – ‘50 years of fostering peace’, Star online</i>	
12	EUSEC RD Congo – Council Joint Action	73
	Brussels, 27 March 2007	
13	Kosovo – The future EU role	75
	Brussels, 29 March 2007	
	<i>Summary note on the joint report by Javier Solana and Olli Rehn</i>	
14	AMIS/AMISOM EU Somalia – Council Joint Action	78
	Brussels, 23 April 2007	
	<i>Joint Action</i>	
	<i>Factsheet</i>	
15	General Affairs and External Relations Council	81
	Brussels, 23-24 April 2007	
	<i>Sudan</i>	
	<i>Zimbabwe</i>	
	<i>Somalia</i>	
	<i>Central Asia</i>	
	<i>Middle East Peace Process</i>	
	<i>Iran</i>	
	<i>Iraq</i>	

Contents

<i>Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee</i>	
<i>International Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation</i>	
<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	
<i>ESDP</i>	
<i>Counter-terrorism</i>	
16 10th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention	95
Brussels, 29 April 2007	
Declaration	
17 EU-US Summit	97
Washington, 30 April 2007	
18 Iraq – Declaration by the Presidency on the launching of the International Compact	117
Brussels, 3 May 2007	
19a General Affairs and External Relations Council	119
Brussels, 14-15 May 2007	
<i>ESDP</i>	
<i>Black Sea region</i>	
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	
<i>Sudan</i>	
<i>Somalia</i>	
<i>Iraq</i>	
<i>Middle East</i>	
<i>Western Balkans</i>	
<i>Iran</i>	
<i>Libya</i>	
<i>ESDP</i>	
19b Meeting of the Defence Ministers	131
Brussels, 14 May 2007	
<i>Summary of remarks by Javier Solana</i>	
<i>Head of the European Defence Agency's report to the Council</i>	
<i>A Strategy for the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base</i>	
20 EUPT Kosovo – Council Joint Action	143
Brussels, 14 May 2007	
21 EUPOL Afghanistan – Council Joint Action	146
Brussels, 30 May 2007	
<i>Joint Action</i>	
<i>Factsheet</i>	
22 The EU-Central Asia Partnership	156
Brussels, 31 May 2007	
23 MILEX 07	168
Brussels, 4 and 13 June 2007	
<i>Council Press Release</i>	
<i>Remarks by Javier Solana</i>	

Contents

24	EUPOL RD Congo – Council Joint Action	170
	Brussels, 12 June 2007	
	<i>Joint Action</i>	
	<i>Document d’information</i>	
25	EUSEC RD Congo – Council Joint Action	180
	Brussels, 12 June 2007	
26	Middle East Peace Process – Statement of the Quartet	188
	16 June 2007	
27	General Affairs and External Relations Council	189
	Brussels, 17-18 June 2007	
	<i>Afghanistan</i>	
	<i>Uganda</i>	
	<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	
	<i>Illicit trafficking of small arms</i>	
	<i>International Arms Trade Treaty</i>	
	<i>Weapons of mass destruction</i>	
	<i>ESDP</i>	
	<i>Sudan</i>	
	<i>Western Balkans</i>	
	<i>Iran</i>	
	<i>Middle East</i>	
28	European Council	199
	Brussels, 21-22 June 2007	
	<i>Presidency Conclusions</i>	
	<i>ESDP Presidency Report</i>	
29	EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction – Council Joint Action	226
	Brussels, 28 June 2007	
30	EU-Brazil Summit – Joint Statement	235
	Lisbon, 4 July 2007	
31	European Union counter-terrorism strategy – Council Joint Action	239
	Brussels, 16 July 2007	
32	Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement	244
	Lisbon, 19 July 2007	
33	General Affairs and External Relations Council	246
	Brussels, 23-24 July 2007	
	<i>Kosovo – EU planning team</i>	
	<i>Restrictions on the use of conventional weapons</i>	

Contents

<i>Sudan/Darfur</i>	
<i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>	
<i>Relations with Ukraine</i>	
<i>Libya</i>	
<i>Middle East</i>	
<i>Western Balkans</i>	
<i>Iran</i>	
34 Conventional weapons – Council Joint Action	253
Brussels, 23 July 2007	
35 Darfur – Javier Solana	261
Brussels, 1 and 7 August 2007	
36 CCA EX07	262
Brussels, 14 September 2007	
37 EU-Ukraine Summit – Joint Statement	263
Kiev, 14 September 2007	
38 Javier Solana – ‘Where we stand...’, <i>Social Europe</i>	266
Summer/Autumn 2007	
39 Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement	271
New York, 23 September 2007	
40 European Defence Agency	273
Brussels, 25 September 2007	
<i>EDA Steering Board agrees path to implementing Defence Industrial Strategy</i>	
<i>Summary of Report to EDA Steering Board on working of defence procurement</i>	
<i>Code of Conduct</i>	
41 Bosnia and Herzegovina – Contact Group Statement	276
New York, 27 September 2007	
42 Kosovo – Statements and New York Declaration	277
New York, 27-28 September 2007	
<i>Contact Group Ministers – Statement</i>	
<i>Troika meeting with Belgrade and Pristina – Statement</i>	
<i>New York Declaration</i>	
43 Informal meeting of the Defence Ministers – Summary of remarks by Javier Solana	280
Evora, 29 September 2007	
44 Javier Solana – White Paper on Defence	282
Paris, 4 October 2007	
<i>Audition devant la Commission sur le Livre blanc sur la défense et la sécurité nationale</i>	

Contents

45	South Africa-EU Strategic Partnership – Joint Communiqué	286
	Tshwane, 10 October 2007	
46	12th ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting – Final Communiqué	292
	Ouagadougou, 11 October 2007	
47	Javier Solana – ‘L’approbation du traité européen modifié relancera la politique de sécurité’, <i>Le Monde</i>	299
	Paris, 13 October 2007	
48	Kosovo – Troika Press Statement	301
	Brussels, 14 October 2007	
49	External Relations Council	302
	Luxemburg, 15-16 October 2007	
	<i>Uzbekistan</i>	
	<i>Chad/Central African Republic/Sudan</i>	
	<i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>	
	<i>Burma/Myanmar</i>	
	<i>Iran</i>	
	<i>Zimbabwe</i>	
	<i>Relations with the Western Balkans</i>	
	<i>Libya</i>	
	<i>Iraq</i>	
	<i>Middle East</i>	
50	EUFOR Tchad/RCA – Council Joint Action	314
	Brussels, 15 October 2007	
	<i>Joint Action</i>	
	<i>Background</i>	
51	Javier Solana – ‘Pour un nouveau partenariat entre l’Union européenne et l’Asie centrale’	322
	Brussels, 17 October 2007	
52	Kosovo – Troika Press Statements	324
	Vienna, 22 October and 5 November 2007	
53	20th EU-Russia Summit	326
	Mafra, 26 October 2007	
54	9th Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs	328
	Lisbon, 5-6 November 2007	
	<i>Conclusions</i>	
	<i>Summary of remarks by Javier Solana</i>	
55	EUPOL Afghanistan – Council Joint Action	334
	Brussels, 13 November 2007	

Contents

56a External Relations Council	338
Brussels, 19 November 2007	
<i>ESDP</i>	
<i>Pakistan</i>	
<i>Middle East</i>	
<i>Iran</i>	
<i>Iraq</i>	
<i>Western Balkans</i>	
<i>Georgia</i>	
<i>Security and development</i>	
<i>Effectiveness of external action – The joint EU-Africa Strategy</i>	
56b Meeting of the Defence Ministers	355
Brussels, 19 November 2007	
<i>Summary of remarks by Javier Solana</i>	
<i>EU ministers adopt framework for joint European strategy on defence R&T</i>	
<i>Annex I – European defence data – 2006</i>	
<i>European defence expenditure in 2006</i>	
56c Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference 2007	369
Brussels, 19 November 2007	
<i>Ministerial Declaration</i>	
<i>Civilian Headline Goal 2010</i>	
57 EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina – Council Joint Action	375
Brussels, 19 November 2007	
58 North Korea – Council Joint Action	381
Brussels, 19 November 2007	
59 Kosovo – Troika Press Statement	387
Brussels, 20 November 2007	
60 Annual Conference of the Institute for Security Studies of the European Union – Speech by Javier Solana	388
Paris, 22 November 2007	
61 EUJUST LEX Iraq – Council Joint Action	393
Brussels, 22 November 2007	
62 Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement	397
Washington, 26 November 2007	
63 Middle East – Annapolis Conference	398
Annapolis, 27 November 2007	
<i>Summary of remarks by Javier Solana</i>	
<i>Statebuilding for peace in the Middle East: an EU action strategy</i>	
<i>Annapolis Joint Declaration</i>	
64 10th China-EU Summit – Joint Statement	403
Brussels and Beijing, 28 November 2007	

Contents

65	Kosovo – Troika Press Communiqué	414
	Baden, 28 November 2007	
66	EUPT Kosovo – Council Joint Action	415
	Brussels, 29 November 2007	
67	India-EU Summit	420
	New Delhi, 30 November 2007	
	<i>Joint Statement</i>	
	<i>India-EU Joint Action Plan: Implementation Report</i>	
68	Javier Solana – ‘Countering globalisation’s dark side’, <i>Europe’s World</i>	432
	Autumn 2007	
69	Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community	436
	Brussels, 3 December 2007	
70	Public Contracts – European Commission Proposal	449
	Brussels, 5 December 2007	
	<i>EDA welcomes Commission Communication on EU Defence Industry and Market Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council</i>	
71	EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine	458
	Brussels, 5 December 2007	
	<i>Factsheet</i>	
72	EUBAM Rafah – Council Joint Action	460
	Brussels, 6 December 2007	
73	EUPOL COPPS – Council Joint Action	464
	Brussels, 6 December 2007	
74	EUSR African Union – Council Joint Action	468
	Brussels, 6 December 2007	
75	EU-Africa Summit	474
	Lisbon, 9 December 2007	
	<i>Intervention by Javier Solana</i>	
	<i>Lisbon Declaration</i>	
	<i>The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership</i>	
76	European Council	487
	Brussels, 14 December 2007	
	<i>Presidency Conclusions</i>	
	<i>Presidency report on ESDP</i>	
77	Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement	518
	Paris, 17 December 2007	
78	EUPOL RD Congo – Council Joint Action	520
	Brussels, 20 December 2007	

Preface

Continuing a well-established tradition which has found sustained favour with our readers, this is the eighth volume of the annual EUISS collection of core documents on European security and defence. This compendium reflects the evolution of EU policy making in the realm of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) in 2007.

The year 2007 was dominated on every front, foreign and security affairs being no exception, by the agreement on the Reform Treaty secured in Berlin in June, and then the laborious drafting period that followed and led to its signing by the leaders of the EU Member States in Lisbon on 13 December. The institutional reforms contemplated in the Lisbon Treaty crucially impact on CFSP/ESDP, as they demand greater coherence between the various components of EU external action, with a view to forging a holistic and hence more effective external action/foreign policy. The envisaged European External Action Service headed by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – whose remit will virtually be equivalent to that of a Minister for External Affairs – will play a key role in integrating the capacities of the Member States' foreign ministries as well as pooling the resources of both the Commission and the Council.

The mechanisms and instruments providing for the stronger kind of EU involvement we have more recently witnessed in seeking to meet political and security challenges, whether they arise in the EU's own neighbourhood or in more geographically distant regions, are now established. This is an urgent necessity, especially when we consider the evolution of ESDP throughout 2007 and well into the current year, or even the commitments of many EU Member States in military operations, be it in the context of the peacekeeping mission in Lebanon or the war in Afghanistan.

Symptomatically, perhaps, the first 2007 ESDP-related document is a strong statement from the Union on Darfur, a vehement condemnation of the mass slaughter of civilians by the Sudanese armed forces, with dire repercussions in Chad and the Central African Republic. Later in the year, on 15 October, as the humanitarian situation in the region tragically deteriorated, the Council decided to launch a military operation in both countries, the 3,000-plus strong EUFOR Tchad/RCA. The fact that command of the mission was entrusted to Ireland, a neutral country but a committed ESDP contributor which is not among Europe's big military powers, highlighted an important fact: humanitarian operations in general, and in particular those exercising the duty to protect, require the pooling of all Member States' efforts. Furthermore, the European character of some missions can be strengthened at times, providing that individual countries manage to overcome tensions or sensitivities stemming from historical relationships with former colonies.

At the end of May, the Council decided to supplement the military commitment to Afghanistan undertaken by individual EU Member States through their participation in the NATO mission by setting up a police force to help rebuild the embattled country. EUPOL Afghanistan signals the EU's growing involvement in civilian crisis-manage-

ment and highlights the need for the EU's civilian capabilities in the field of civil power-projection to be significantly enhanced. This is a crucial aspect of coherent foreign action which should be given the priority it deserves. And it is also an area where EU contributions to international security can prove to be the best suited to resolving conflict and rebuilding shattered states. Police and justice and rule-of-law missions with their key human-rights protection strand are of vital importance in this respect, reflecting the kind of humanitarian-motivated involvement in Security Sector Reform (SSR) the EU has been seeking in such places as the DR Congo (where the successor mission to the 2005-2007 EUPOL Kinshasa, known as EUPOL DR Congo, was launched in June with a mandate that currently extends to June 2009.) Monitoring missions, often civil-military, also contribute to defuse tension and to bring stability to troubled areas.

The uniqueness of EU civilian missions owes much to the fact that they draw heavily on the experience of EU enlargement. Their potentially lasting effect and hence impact on long-term stability was the impetus behind the approval, in November, of the new Civilian Headline Goal 2010, a more stringent update of the existing one. Civilian crisis-management is indeed the area under ESDP where the Community element is more clearly brought to the fore, notably in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, and where resource- and capability-pooling between Commission, Council and Member States has greater potential benefits.

Throughout the year 2007, ESDP civilian and military missions expanded into war-torn zones outside the European continent, for example in Darfur, Afghanistan and Chad. The conflict in Afghanistan shows no signs of abating and as a result additional demands are likely to be made of the EU regarding more robust action to be taken under ESDP. The terrible deterioration of the military situation in Afghanistan is at the same time a powerful reminder that modern wars cannot be fought or won through military means alone. They require the unsparing use of civilian capabilities, and these include economic as much as political and diplomatic instruments.

The official documents compiled here also reflect EU engagement with regions and powers deemed strategic for the conduct of its external action. The year 2007 saw the addition of Brazil to regular bilateral summitry. Implementing the institutional arrangements that enable the EU to meet current challenges in a coherent manner and in accordance with its founding principles is undoubtedly the driving force behind the Lisbon Treaty in those areas relating to EU external action. It had already become clear to EU leaders in the course of 2007 that the EU cannot go it alone, if it wants the effective multilateral order that it committed itself to work towards in 2003 to see the light of day. Engaging the leading powers of the world is a vital necessity. Building strategic partnerships for effective multilateralism not only with the US but also with powers such as Brazil, Russia, India and China, given the variety of shared and competing interests at stake, must be done in line with the wider goals of EU external action. For this to happen, it is of vital importance that the Lisbon Treaty comes into force and that the current ratification difficulties are overcome.

Álvaro de Vasconcelos
Paris, October 2008

Core documents

2007

Council External Relations

Brussels, 22 January 2007

(...)

SUDAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council remains greatly concerned about the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Darfur, which is clearly intolerable. It condemns the continuing ceasefire violations by the parties to the conflict and denounces in particular air strikes against civilian targets carried out by the Sudanese Air Force, such as the bombing of villages in North Darfur on 29 December and on 5 January. Stressing the urgent need for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the Council demands that all parties refrain from any form of violence against civilians and organisations providing humanitarian assistance. The Council expects the Sudanese authorities to fulfil its responsibility to provide effective protection to all the citizens and to put an end to impunity in Darfur.

2. An inclusive political process is a condition for sustainable peace in Darfur. To this end, the EU expresses its full support to the efforts of UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson and AU Special Envoy Salim Salim to revive the political process. The Council urges the parties to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and the non-signatories to enter in good faith into negotiations. The Council reconfirms the EU’s readiness to continue contributing to these efforts, as well as its support for the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC).

3. An effective and comprehensive cease-fire would inspire confidence in the political process. The Council urges that all parties respect their ceasefire commitments, recalling that UN Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005) determines that those impeding the peace process shall be held responsible and appropriate measures shall be taken accordingly. The Council also reiterates the importance of involving the non-signatories to the DPA in the effective monitoring of the cease-fire and welcomes the efforts by the AMIS Force Commander in this respect.

4. The Council welcomes as an encouraging step the letter of 23 December 2006 from the President of the Republic of Sudan to the United Nations Secretary-General. The EU expects the Government of Sudan, on the basis of an unequivocal acceptance of the full implementation of the UN support packages for the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and in close cooperation with the AU and the UN in the framework of the tripartite mechanism, to work for an early implementation of the light and heavy support packages and finalisation of the preparations for the hybrid force. The Council expresses its readiness to consider further measures notably in the UN framework against any party which obstructs its implementation.

5. Similarly, the Council encourages the AU and the UN to finalise as soon as possible the necessary plans for the deployment of the hybrid force. In this respect, it looks forward to the appointment of the Joint Special Representative.

6. The EU reaffirms its commitment to continuing support for AMIS in the transition period leading to the agreed hybrid force in Darfur and confirms the extension of the EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS for a period of up to six months, from 1 January 2007. The Council urges other countries and organisations to provide additional financial and material support for AMIS.

7. The EU welcomes the decision of the UN Human Rights Council to send an assessment mission to Darfur. It urges the President of the Human Rights Council to accelerate the selection and deployment of an independent and credible team. The EU expects the Government of Sudan to fully cooperate with the mission.

8. The destabilising effects of the Darfur conflict in the wider region, in particular in Chad and in the Central African Republic, are of continuing concern to the Council. All parties should stop all support for rebel movements active in the region. The EU notes that Central African and Chadian authorities have indicated agreement to a UN presence on their territory and is looking forward to further UN recommendations.

9. The Council notes the second anniversary of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which set an end to the armed conflict in Southern Sudan and reconfirmed its full support to the peace process. While important milestones of the CPA have been achieved, the Council observes with great concern that crucial provisions have not yet been implemented and calls on the parties to urgently restore confidence in the agreement by taking effective steps to speed up its implementation.'

SOMALIA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU believes that a window of opportunity exists for a sustainable solution to Somalia's difficulties. It considers that the current momentum should be seized by all parties in order to reach a durable political settlement that will enable Somalia to achieve lasting peace, development and prosperity.

2. The EU, however, remains concerned by the current situation of the reconciliation process and in particular the impact on it by recent events, including the vote of the Transitional Parliament under state of emergency to remove the Speaker of the Transitional Parliament. The EU urges the resumption of the full functioning of political institutions and civil society, as soon as possible.

3. The EU remains concerned about the humanitarian situation, and the difficulties faced by humanitarian organisations working in Somalia in recent years. Access for relief organizations must not be hampered. The EU urges neighbouring countries to do all they can to help in this regard. The EU will continue to provide humanitarian assistance. It urges all parties to end violence and to respect international law, including human rights and humanitarian law.

4. The Council welcomes past and ongoing efforts aiming at reducing tensions, including those of the African Union (AU), of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its chair and of the League of Arab States.

5. The EU recalls its already substantial support for the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), which are now gradually establishing their authority on the whole of Somalia. The EU calls on the TFIs to solve their internal differences and to reach out to all Somalis of good will, in a spirit of national reconciliation. It is of the utmost importance to ensure that all key stakeholders – including clan elders, Islamic leaders, representatives of the business community, civil society and women – are engaged in an inclusive political and institutional process on the basis of the Transitional Federal Charter. The EU calls for the establishment of conditions allowing the Parliament to resume political activities.

6. An inclusive broad based political process will offer the basis for further international support to stabilisation, already authorised in principle by UNSC Resolution 1725. International assistance could support the development and implementation of plans for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR). A stabilisation force would facilitate the functioning of inclusive institutions and the reconciliation process. The EU takes note of the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the AU of 19 January 2007 to authorize the deployment of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), for a period of six months, and welcomes the current efforts of the AU and member states to identify possible troop providers.

7. The EU stands ready to offer financial support for AMISOM within the framework of a concerted and global international effort stressing the importance of an all-inclusive political dialogue and genuine reconciliation as the basis for stability and the important role of the UN in facilitating longer-term stabilization in Somalia. To this end, the EU is ready to consider positively the scope to provide support through the 15 million EUR from the African Peace Facility for AMISOM as soon as the necessary requirements are met, including authorization by the UN. The EU invites the AU also to explore other possible sources of funding for the continued financing of the stabilisation force.

8. The EU, as Somalia's biggest aid donor, will continue to provide assistance for reconstruction in Somalia, and to strengthen TFIs capacity to implement the Transitional Federal Charter and engage in SSR and DDR activities on the basis of the National Security Stabilisation Plan. However, a genuine political process of reconciliation and sustainable all-inclusive institutions are essential for reconstruction efforts and the foreseen donor round table to be effective.'

IRAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The Council discussed Iran's nuclear programme. The Council deplored Iran's failure to take the steps repeatedly required by the IAEA Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council. It welcomed the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1737 on 23 December 2006. This decision represents a necessary and proportionate response to Iran's disregard for the concerns of the international community and for Security Council Resolution 1696.

The Council welcomed the measures in Resolution 1737, which are targeted against the most sensitive parts of the Iranian nuclear and missile programmes, and called on all countries to implement the measures in full and without delay.

To ensure effective implementation of measures in UNSCR 1737 while remaining consistent with EU policy, and recalling the EU policy not to sell arms to Iran, Ministers agreed that the EU should prevent the export to and import from Iran of the goods on the NSG and MTCR lists; ban transactions with and freeze the assets of individuals and entities covered by the criteria in UNSCR 1737; ban travel to the EU of the individuals covered by these criteria; and take measures to prevent Iranian nationals from studying proliferation sensitive subjects within the EU.

The Council welcomed the Security Council's decisions to request a report by the IAEA Director General within 60 days, and to review Iran's action in the light of that report; and that it shall suspend the implementation of measures if and for as long as Iran suspends all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development as verified by the

IAEA, to allow for negotiations; and, in the absence of Iranian compliance, to adopt further measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, in order to persuade Iran to fully comply with the Security Council's Resolutions and the requirements of the IAEA Board of Governors. The Council, in this context, underlined its continued commitment to an incremental and proportionate approach.

The Council reiterated at the same time its continuing support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution. It reaffirmed its support for the far-reaching proposals presented to Iran by the EU High Representative on 6 June 2006 which would open the way for a new relationship with Iran based on mutual respect and expanded cooperation, and called upon Iran to seize the opportunity of reaching a negotiated solution.'

EXTERNAL RELATIONS IN ENERGY

The Council held an exchange of views on the external relations aspects of a package of energy and climate change measures proposed by the Commission with a view to endorsement, by the European Council at its meeting on 8 and 9 March, of an '*energy policy for Europe*'.

The Commission's communication sets out priorities for energy policy for the 2007-2009 period. A number of delegations indicated agreement with the Commission's approach, in particular the demand that energy be seen as a central part of all EU external relations.

Among the priorities to be defined for the three-year action plan, delegations underlined in particular:

- ▶ the diversification of energy supply (source and type, transport routes);
- ▶ the EU's energy partnership with Russia (in particular the chapter on energy in the successor agreement to the partnership and cooperation agreement, including principles laid down by the energy charter treaty);
- ▶ the strengthening of energy relations with the EU's neighbouring countries and regions;
- ▶ the deepening of energy relations with the major consumer countries, such as the United States, China and India, above all as regards climate protection, energy efficiency and renewable energies.

A number of delegations also welcomed in principle the proposal for an energy partnership with Africa. The presidency invited delegations to send further comments in writing.

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'Montenegro

The Council adopted a decision on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European partnership with Montenegro. The Partnership identifies the short- and medium-term priorities for Montenegro in order to move closer to the European Union and will be the key tool guiding Montenegro's efforts in this regard. The Council called for a swift and effective implementation of the priorities and reaffirmed its readiness to fully support Montenegro in this endeavour.

The Council welcomed the holding of the first EU-Montenegro Troika meeting.

Serbia

The Council welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Serbia on 21 January and the preliminary assessment by the OSCE/ODHIR's Election Observation mission that the elections were conducted freely and fairly and were on the whole a compliment to the democratic standards that Serbia has reached. The Council took note of the preliminary election results which indicate a clear majority for reform orientated political parties. The Council called for the speedy formation of a government committed to Serbia's European course and prepared to tackle the challenges ahead in a spirit of constructive cooperation with the international community. The EU remains ready to support Serbia in its European perspective.'

MIDDLE EAST – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'Middle East Peace Process

1. The Council expresses its full support for President Abbas and his continued efforts for national unity. It calls on all Palestinians to support these efforts and to end internal violence. The EU stands ready to work with a legitimate Palestinian government that adopts a platform reflecting the Quartet principles.
2. The Council welcomes the meeting between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas on 23 December 2006 and emphasises the need for prompt implementation of commitments made at this meeting. It takes note of the partial transfer by Israel of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues. It calls for the early resumption of the 2005 Sharm-el-Sheikh understandings. The Council expresses the hope that this meeting will be the first in a series of meetings in the framework of a renewed political process, which should lead to meaningful negotiations on the final status. The ultimate goal should be an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the creation of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state, living side-by-side with Israel and its other neighbours in peace and security.
3. The Council calls on the parties to consolidate the cease-fire in Gaza and to extend it to the West Bank. It condemns the continued firing of rockets into Israeli territory and urges the Palestinian leadership to do everything in its power to put an end to such acts. While commending Israel for its present restraint concerning Gaza, it calls for an end to Israeli military interventions in the West Bank.
4. The EU calls for the immediate release of the abducted Israeli soldier and commends efforts, including by partners in the region, to that effect. It also calls for the immediate release of Palestinian ministers and legislators detained in Israel.
5. The EU stresses the importance of strengthening the Palestinian institutions. It will continue to pursue practical and visible measures, including on access and movement, governance, the security sector and a functioning administration. It welcomes the extension of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) for three months, which – in coordination with the Office of the President – is providing essential relief to a large part of the Palestinian population. It reiterates its call on Israel for the immediate transfer of all withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues. It encourages Israel to consider to do so through the TIM. The Council recalls

the utmost importance of the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and in this regard reiterates its continued commitment to the EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah. It urges that Rafah and all other crossing points, notably Karni, be re-opened and remain open.

6. The EU is deeply concerned about the recent authorisation of settlement activities by the Israeli government, and the ongoing construction of the barrier on Palestinian land. These developments are contrary to international law and the Road Map. The Council calls on Israel to desist from any action that threatens the viability of an agreed two-state solution. Settlement activities in and around East-Jerusalem as well as in the Jordan valley are of particular concern. The EU will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders other than those agreed by both parties.

7. In this context, the EU emphasises its determination to play an active role in the framework of increased Quartet engagement, with a view to urgently put in place a political and diplomatic process offering a political perspective in the quest for a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict, in line with the Road Map and the relevant UNSC resolutions, and also taking into account the Arab League Beirut Declaration. The Council underlines the need to work closely with the parties and regional partners. In accordance with the Road Map, the Quartet, in consultation with the parties, should in due course convene an international conference to realise these goals. At this critical moment, the Council looks forward to an early meeting of Quartet principals.

Lebanon

1. The Council welcomes the international conference in support of Lebanon and the Lebanese people due to take place in Paris on 25th of January 2007 and stands ready to support it notably through the European Neighbourhood Policy. The EU is actively contributing, in close coordination with the Lebanese government, to the full success of the Conference. The Council commends the ambitious Programme on Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform adopted by the government of Lebanon on January 4th, 2007. The EU also welcomes the decision by the Lebanese Government to adopt the ENP action plan; this opens the path to further intensify cooperation in support of Lebanese national priorities. The Council recognises the need for international assistance, financial and otherwise, to complement the efforts of the Lebanese government to lay a sound foundation for a sustainable and equitable economic and social development in Lebanon.

2. The EU stresses that a solution to the current political deadlock is of the utmost importance for the stability and development of Lebanon and in the interest of all Lebanese people. Such solution should be sought only through dialogue and with full respect for the democratic institutions of the country. In this respect, the Council expresses its appreciation for the mediation efforts by the Secretary General of the Arab League.

3. The Council reiterates its call for the immediate release of the two abducted Israeli soldiers.

4. The Council reaffirms its determination to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. It urges Israel to stop violation of Lebanese airspace by the Israeli Air Force. The Council calls on Syria and other countries in the region to refrain from interfering in the domestic affairs of Lebanon. They must actively engage in the stabilisation of

Lebanon. The Council commends the assistance provided by UNIFIL to the Lebanese armed forces to extend control by the government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory, in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1701. It reconfirms its full support to the efforts of Prime Minister Siniora and the legitimate and democratically elected government, aimed at maintaining dialogue with all political actors in Lebanon and at tackling the important challenges it is facing, in particular fully implementing UNSC Resolution 1701 and the other relevant UNSC resolutions, establishing the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1664 and reconstructing the country.'

(...)

ESDP – Address by Javier Solana

Berlin, 29 January 2007

In collaboration with the EU German Presidency, the EUISS organised a seminar which took place in Berlin on 29 January 2007, which was attended by over 130 senior national and European officials, as well as prominent experts. The aim of the meeting was to take stock of the achievements accomplished since the launch of ESDP, and define the challenges and priorities for the coming years. The address by Javier Solana is reproduced below.

ADDRESS BY JAVIER SOLANA AT THE EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY CONFERENCE: ‘FROM COLOGNE TO BERLIN AND BEYOND – OPERATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPABILITIES’

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me first thank the German Presidency for organising this seminar. I can think of no better place for us to take stock together on European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) than in Berlin, following the tremendously successful operation EUFOR RD Congo that concluded just before the end of 2006, and at the start of this important Presidency. Thank you.

Today we cover operations, institutions and capabilities. As we look back at the past, we can understand how far we have come and how much we have accomplished. But we are also reminded of the challenges ahead and the need to be ready for the future.

Operations:

Let us have a look at operations first:

Last year, the European Union conducted 10 operations with around 10 000 men and women serving in them. The global reach and the scope of these different operations is striking. Across three continents, they cover the spectrum from ‘pure’ military operations – through security-sector reform and institution building – to police and rule-of-law missions. And their impact is significant. From Aceh to Rafah, and from Kinshasa to Sarajevo, the EU is providing the ‘key enablers’ for peace and stability.

- ▶ In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country which has seen three million of its citizens killed in a five-year conflict, we acted decisively to ensure that the electoral process enabled the peaceful transition to a democratically elected government.
- ▶ In Aceh, the EU moved quickly with its Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) partners to capitalise on their post-Tsunami desire for peace and opportunity.
- ▶ In Rafah, we acted two weeks after an Israeli and Palestinian request to enable the opening of the border crossing point. By working alongside Israelis and Palestinians, we provide the only safety valve for the pressure cooker that is Gaza.
- ▶ In the West Bank, in Kinshasa, in Darfur and in Bosnia and Herzegovina we mentor, monitor and support the local police.
- ▶ Also in Bosnia and Herzegovina our military force, run under the Berlin Plus arrangements, continues to ensure a safe and secure environment.
- ▶ We also have security-sector reform and rule-of-law training missions in the DRC and Iraq respectively.

And the demand on the EU is increasing. This year, we will add to these responsibilities the conduct of a police and rule-of-law mission in Kosovo and a police mission in Afghanistan. In Kosovo, we will launch our largest ever civilian mission. It is already clear that this mission will form a critical part of the agenda for ESDP this year and beyond. It is also right that we take on a greater operational role in our 'backyard' and our planning for this mission is well under way.

Combined, these operations represent a significant engagement by the EU on the key stability challenges. The EU has responded to the demands of its Member States, to the demands of countries in crisis and to the calls for help from the UN. And we had to respond to the changing world, even before our doctrines and structures had caught up completely.

Let us look back and remember that the original design of our crisis-management structures was based on – understandably – developing an EU capacity to respond to the past Balkan crises. A 60 000 strong military force in 60 days for up to a year. The civilian missions were neatly divided into police, rule-of-law and civilian administration.

Of course, this was an assessment of future requirements, based on past needs. But the reality was ARTEMIS (the EU military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo) and EUFOR Congo, and a series of new security support missions – such as political, financial, police and military support to African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS), a security-sector reform mission – and disarmament and border monitoring missions (in Aceh and Rafah).

Each crisis threw up its own set of different and unpredicted requirements: some required a rapid, robust military response to the centre of Africa, some a rapid deployment of police and border monitors to a Middle East hotspot. Some, such as Aceh, support to AMIS and EUSEC (EU mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo) required a different mix of civilian and military instruments.

The battlegroups concept has been validated. It is not just a concept but already a reality. And, increasingly, our battlegroups capacity is at the heart of the EU's ability to act quickly and robustly where needed. But what all operations had in common was that they required a joined-up agile, tailor-made and rapid response, each drawing on a mixture of civilian, military, economic, political and institution-building tools. This – rightly – is becoming our trademark. And this is why we are in demand.

And where we have acted we have succeeded. We have helped governments take forward their peace processes and we have helped to make those processes more sustainable by strengthening their institutions. Most of all, although much remains to be done, of course, in all of these places, we have improved the lives of people and given them hope.

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

Beyond this, let's look at how ESDP has changed our Union, and our wider impact on the world. CFSP has changed our Union and how we interact with the world. It is a vital, visible and effective part of our daily lives. Imagine a world where there were no unified positions of the EU: on Iran, on the Middle East, on Africa, on climate change and on the Doha Round?

It is true that the business of reaching unified positions is sometimes painful. But this is just a fraction of the pain felt when a common position is not reached. And, when we don't agree, the pain is not just felt by ourselves, but often far beyond. Fortunately, this is not often the case.

CFSP strengthens the effectiveness of ESDP. The political framework gives our operations clear objectives and deep support. And ESDP has made CFSP more credible, and it has given our dialogue with third countries strength.

It makes multilateralism effective, and it helps shape the thinking of others. It means we can act together to address a range of different issues that concern us. Our unity, our influence and our action benefit us, of course. But it also serves many others. And, actually, it is often easier for us to act together than alone. Solidarity and shared political objectives are good force generators, and our collective weight counts. It is also true that in many cases Member States can no longer act alone to any great effect.

Now, can you imagine a Europe that is just a Europe of dialogue and common positions and no action? Not for many people in Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans – who have benefited from our action. And not for many citizens of our own countries or for our many partners around the world who have been calling for more European action and not less.

However, all this risks could make us a victim of our success. We are called upon to undertake more missions and in more difficult circumstances. In Africa or in Asia, on nuclear issues, man-made or natural disasters – we are being solicited. And we have no choice but to be ready and to say ‘Yes’.

Therefore, we need to make sure we are structured and staffed to meet all these different challenges. Important decisions such as those establishing the Civilian/military Cell and the Operations Centre, have to be followed by further developments if we want to be up to the task.

Institutions:

So let us look at institutions briefly: many of the tools we could have used to be more efficient and effective, and to equip us for the 21st Century, were contained in the draft constitution. I fully support Chancellor Merkel’s efforts to seek a resolution to this issue. It is worth noting that despite many dire predictions for the EU in 2006, it was one of our busiest years and not without its successes.

In a great speech to the European Parliament, Chancellor Merkel compared the EU to a house in which we all live. Well, in the ESDP wing of the house, we have also been building it and extending it at the same time. And now it is time to do some renovation.

Last year, in the light of six years of experience, we decided to make a number of simple changes to strengthen the coherence, the assessment and implementation capacity in Brussels. They are the minimum that are required now.

We have set up a board, that will see that consolidated advice is prepared at important moments during the planning and conduct of an operation, and to ensure coherence. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) chair will attend at key moments, and this is a good thing.

Following the practice in a number of Member States and following the demands of past Operation Commanders, we have brought together the civilian and military intelligence and assessment capacity, to provide a single, comprehensive service to all those engaged in the planning, conduct and oversight of operations.

To strengthen the civilian chain of command, we will have a civilian operation commander for our civilian missions. He will be responsible for the direction and support of civilian Heads of Mission. We are now examining what structure would best allow the Civilian Operation

Commander to fulfil his tasks. This should build on present structures and contribute to enhancing civilian-military cooperation in the planning and conduct of operations. It should also improve the use of existing assets. A watch-keeping facility intended to provide a more comprehensive service to communicate with our missions on the ground will be established.

We will also establish closer and more systematic coordination between civilian and military staffs, and, when required, we will also concentrate them in a combined planning group that can operate in Brussels and beyond.

Finally, the facilities of our Operations Centre are ready to be used, thereby increasing the possibilities for and flexibility of an EU military response as well as the overall capacity of the ESDP. In response to the mandate I received from the EU Heads of State and Government at Hampton Court, I will soon be taking forward the remaining steps in order to further enhance the EU's crisis-management capability.

Finally, we all know change is not always easy. But if the world continues to change, then we all have to change too.

Capacities:

On capacities, our starting point must be: will we be able to act in response to a range of likely threats to our interests and values? What do we know about these threats? We have analysed them very successfully in our European Security Strategy, where we also set down how we should become more capable:

- ▶ establishment of a defence agency
- ▶ systematic use of pooled and shared assets
- ▶ greater capacity to bring all necessary civilian resources to bear in crisis and post-crisis situations
- ▶ common threat assessments
- ▶ wider spectrum of missions, including disarmament operations and security-sector reform
- ▶ and the EU-NATO permanent arrangements.

Here our record, I'm afraid, is a bit more mixed.

On the positive side, we have established the Defence Agency and it has taken some significant steps forward. The launch of the 22 nation Code of Conduct on defence procurement became operational last summer, and it started the move towards the creation of a genuine defence equipment market in Europe. This means that national defence contracts are open to Europe-wide suppliers.

It has also launched a Joint Investment Programme on Force Protection, in which 20 Member States, with Germany playing a key role, participate with 50 million Euros. In line with our Security Strategy, we have defined our level of ambition and the required level of resources in our military and civilian Headline Goals. The Agency's Long-Term Vision paper looks ahead to a 20-year horizon and helps us understand what we need to do now, to be ready for then.

We have also enjoyed two successful operations conducted through our permanent arrangements with NATO. They have been so successful in fact that one has been concluded and the other is about to be downsized! We have also worked closely and effectively side-by-side in Darfur, and we will be doing so in Kosovo and Afghanistan this year.

But, on the negative side, it is by no means certain that we are on track to meet all our military capability shortfalls set out in the Headline Goal 2010, or in the civilian Headline Goal 2008. And there is no mystery why. We need to spend more and to spend better. Only a handful of Member States' defence spending is over two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Furthermore, the United States defence budget is more than twice the aggregate of European defence spending – and over 30 per cent of it goes on research and equipment.

In Europe, we invest less than 20 per cent of our spending in that way. Consider research and development, and the mismatch is even worse. Defence research and development spending by European governments is now only about one-sixth of what the Pentagon spends. No surprise, then, that North America holds five times as many aerospace and defence patents as Europe!

On the civilian side, Member States have not yet fully addressed how to resource additional police, prosecutors, judges and penitentiary officials for external deployment, when they are usually in short supply at home. If we don't change this, then we have to face up to the fact that supply will not meet demand, and ambition will be greater than the capability to realise it. Of course political willingness to act and take risks in support of our values is the most important capability of all. However, it is interesting that there is often more willingness when there is more capability.

I just wanted to make a final remark: from Cologne, June 1999, no-one could have envisaged the operational challenges we were asked to face. But we succeeded. As we look to the next seven years, it is likely that we will have to address as much – if not more – uncertainty in the world. We must make sure that we are clear about one thing – our willingness and our capacity to act, and to act successfully.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much.

EDTIB – Speech by Javier Solana

Brussels, 1 February 2007

EDA CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL BASE – KEYNOTE SPEECH BY JAVIER SOLANA

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak and be with you today. The European Defence and Technological and Industrial Base is the defence theme for 2007. There are difficult decisions and significant changes that lie ahead and that need to be taken. Therefore, it is important that we are here, together, to agree on how we move forward in the right direction and at the right speed.

In one month we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Rome. Its aim was economic integration. And it has been a clear and undeniable success.

Yet defence has been largely excluded from this process of economic integration. Defence was judged too special, too sensitive. And although much has changed in the last 50 years, to this day, Member States continue to have the right to judge their own national security interests. In particular, Member States still decide how much, or how little, defence integration they want. But we are reaching a crossroads. The future health, and maybe even the survival, of Europe's defence industry needs a European approach, and a European strategy.

No-one would argue that the defence industry matters in Europe. We know it matters to our economies, sustaining some 300,000 high technology jobs. A healthy defence industry, as well as a healthy defence research base, helps to sustain political and popular support for our armed forces and our defence missions. And we are all aware that it is the very foundation upon which so much of our security and defence efforts is built.

It is also clear that as defence becomes increasingly a high technology business, it becomes increasingly important, for reasons of operational autonomy, to understand and control the technology embedded in sophisticated systems. But we all need to be just as clear that the defence industry is under stress. Defence budgets in Europe, and in particular their investment elements, have been cut back since the end of the Cold War.

The US defence budget is more than twice the aggregate of European defence spending – and over 30% of it goes on research and equipment. In Europe, we invest less than 20% of our spending in that way. Consider research and development, and the mismatch is even worse. Between 2000 and 2005, government funding of US defence research and development grew by over 9% per annum. In Europe, the rate was less than 1.5%.

In consequence, the totality of defence R&D spending by European governments is now only about one sixth of what the Pentagon spends. It should come as no surprise, then, that North America holds five times as many aerospace and defence patents as Europe.

But these figures say that is unlikely that we can sustain a globally-competitive European defence industry -competitive today with the Americans, and competitive tomorrow with the Chinese and Indians – unless there are some pretty radical changes.

We retain many areas of excellence within the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (or DTIB, as you will excuse me for calling it). We have world-leading technology in, for example, the helicopter, guided missiles and land system sectors; in combat aircraft manufacturing and propulsion; in communications. But we retain these advantages because we invested heavily in

them in the past. The figures I have just given you demonstrate that we have ceased to do that. As the European Defence Agency's Long-Term Vision (accepted by Europe's Defence Ministers last autumn) assessed: 'Unless something is done, the trends point towards a steady contraction of the European defence industry into niche producers working increasingly for US primes'.

Well, what is to be done? At the strategic level, there is no mystery. The European Heads of State and Government knew the broad answers when they decided to set up the EDA. We have to spend more.

At a minimum, that means re-deploying defence funds so that we increase the share of defence budgets going to investment. And we have to spend more together. No-one should remain under the illusion that a healthy and comprehensive DTIB can be sustained on a national basis.

We are, you might say, condemned to cooperate – to pool our efforts and resources. On the government side, we must combine our requirements so as to offer industry projects with a worthwhile economy of scale. And we must encourage the restructuring and consolidation of the supply side as well.

So far, so good – but how, in practice, to make these things happen? Well, first let me remind you of a couple of things we have already done.

We have taken the first important strides towards the creation of a genuine defence equipment market in Europe. You will know that the 22-nation Code of Conduct on defence procurement became operational last summer. Before this, the majority of defence contracts, withheld by national governments from the normal European internal market, have gone to national manufacturers.

Now these contracts are advertised on the EDA's Electronic Bulletin Board to suppliers across Europe. Of course, we have made only a start. There is more work to be done with our Member States to ensure that this initiative is fully exploited, and that the cross-border contracts in reality begin to flow. We need to tackle the many impediments to the smooth movement of defence goods and services around our continent (such as security of supply, offsets, and the bureaucracy required for transits and transfers).

But we have made a good start here, and we should remind ourselves why. It is not only that competition will be good for the customer – governments, the armed forces, and the tax-payer. More especially, cross-border competition in a continental-sized market is essential if we are to achieve the consolidation of the demand and supply sides of this industry. This is a matter on which its survival rests.

The second thing we have already done is put the spotlight on defence research and technology – first through our efforts at the European summit at Hampton Court a little over a year ago, and then again at last year's EDA conference.

'Spend more, spend better, and spend more together' became the leitmotiv of that day. I remember sharing the platform with Tom Enders – as I do today with Åke Svensson – and hearing Tom challenge us to achieve a joint budget of €50m for European defence research.

And that, of course, is exactly what we did. Last November Defence Ministers launched a €50m to the Joint Investment Programme on Force Protection with almost 20 European Member States contributing. We should again succeed this year too, and convert the outcomes of this conference into concrete achievement.

What more can governments do? You in this hall today are supremely well-qualified to identify the right answers. And that is why you are here. If successful, we will present your contribu-

tion, as an embryo European defence industrial strategy, to Defence Ministers at their next EDA Steering Board meeting in May.

Let me just give you some thoughts:

First, the bottom-line we should never forget is that we need to increase what we invest in defence – that is, increase spending on research, development and equipment procurement: either by increasing overall defence budgets, or by moving money out of running costs into investment within defence budgets, or both.

Second, we must pull together the demand side – aligning national requirements into consolidated orders. And we must recognise that this is wholly unnatural behaviour for Ministries of Defence. It will not happen by itself. It needs political determination. But it makes operational as well as economic sense.

Third, we must exploit all the resources available in the enlarged Union. Many civil industries, notably the automotive and IT businesses, have realised the benefits of investing in those vibrant and strongly-growing economies which joined the Union in 2004. There is a wealth of human capital newly available to Europe, whether in the university or the laboratory, or on the factory floor, which we can and must involve more effectively. This aspect and the role of Small and Medium Size enterprises have yet to be fully exploited in the development of the European DTIB.

And fourth, I suggest, we must be very clear what we want. There are two issues here. The first is that there is no future for a defence industry which does not provide what the armed forces of the future want to buy. But this means that there is an obligation on ministries of defence to communicate their future requirements to industry. And before they can do that, they need to work out what they are. This, of course, was a key motivation behind the production of the EDA's Long-Term Vision to which I have already referred. It is primarily an effort to identify the key capabilities that we will need over the next two decades. And that is why one of the EDA's key activities for 2007 will be to follow it up with a more detailed Capability Development Plan.

The second aspect of 'knowing what you want' is to develop a shared understanding of the sort of future European DTIB that we all want to see.

In that context, you have in your conference packs a copy of what I think is a very serious document – entitled 'Characteristics of a strong future European DTIB', which the European National Armaments Directors agreed in the Agency Steering Board last September.

It evokes a future technological and industrial base which is capable, competent and competitive – and which is above all European. That is to say, it is something more than the sum of 24 national parts. It is integrated, and inter-dependent – with specialisation replacing the duplication that we find today, and mutual reliance on diverse centres of excellence replacing a sort of desperate 'last man standing' attempt to protect whatever capabilities may endure today, irrespective of whether that makes economic or military sense.

This is an ambitious vision – but I have yet to hear a plausible alternative. Because defence is different, realising this vision will require a good deal of political will. Clearly, the necessary restructuring of the DTIB must also be assisted by market forces. More competition and more effective government action are the twin horses that we must harness together.

And we must act soon, if a globally competitive European DTIB is to continue to exist. We must realise that this is not merely a matter of economics, but it is a matter of the infrastructure of Europe's essential security.

Middle East Peace Process – Quartet statements

On 16 December 2006, following the breakdown of negotiations between Hamas and Fatah aimed at creating a new government of national unity, the President of the Palestinian Authority called for the government to be dissolved and for a general election to be held. Tensions ran high and these events were watched closely by the international community. On 8 February 2007, an agreement between the two rival factions was finally signed in Mecca. The Quartet met four times within two months and published the statements that are reproduced below.

Washington, 2 February 2007

The Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – met today in Washington to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

The Quartet welcomed United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the representative of the European Union Presidency, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Recognizing the critical need to end the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, which would contribute to security and stability in the region, the Quartet pledged to support efforts to put in place a process with the goal of ending the occupation that began in 1967 and creating an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state, living side by side in peace and security with Israel, and reaffirmed its commitment to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

The Quartet expressed the hope that the result-oriented dialogue initiated between Israeli and Palestinian leaders will continue in the framework of a renewed political process with the aim of launching meaningful negotiations.

The Quartet undertook to give active follow-up to these meetings and to remain closely engaged at this moment of increased activity and dialogue. The Quartet reaffirmed its commitment to meet regularly at both the principals and envoys level according to an agreed calendar, including with the parties and other regional partners, to monitor developments and actions taken by the parties and to discuss the way ahead.

The Quartet noted its support for renewed dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian leaders and welcomed the 23 December meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Abbas, and the subsequent implementation of some steps discussed at that meeting. The Quartet urged the parties to implement fully steps discussed at the 23 December meeting, to refrain from taking any measures that could predetermine the number of issues that will be resolved in negotiations, to meet their respective obligations under phase one of the Road Map and under the Agreement on Movement and Access, and to seek to fulfil their obligations under the Sharm el-Sheikh Understandings of 2005.

The Quartet discussed United States efforts to facilitate discussions between the parties. The Quartet welcomed the upcoming meeting between Prime Minister Olmert, President Abbas, and Secretary of State Rice, that could begin to define more clearly the political horizon for the Palestinian people, and help engender a sense of partnership. The Quartet affirmed the

primacy of the Road Map, and welcomed United States efforts to accelerate progress on the Road Map.

The Quartet noted the continuing importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, particularly its reflection of a shared commitment to a two-State solution.

The Quartet reiterated its call for an immediate and unconditional end to all acts of violence and terror. It condemned the suicide bombing in Eilat on 29 January and called once again for an immediate end to all rocket attacks against Israel.

The Quartet expressed its deep concern at the violence among Palestinians and called for respect for law and order.

The Quartet called for continued international assistance to the Palestinian people, and encouraged donors to focus on preserving and building the capacity of institutions of Palestinian governance, as well as the development of the Palestinian economy. The Quartet welcomed international efforts to reform the Palestinian security sector and thus to help improve law and order for the Palestinian people. It called for the Temporary International Mechanism to be further developed to support the political process, to identify suitable projects for international support in the areas of governance, institution-building and economic development, and urged other members of the international community to consider practical support to the parties.

The Quartet called for Palestinian unity in support of a Government committed to non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Road Map. The Quartet reaffirmed that these principles endure. The Quartet reiterated its call for the Palestinian Authority Government to commit to these principles.

9 February 2007

The Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – discussed by telephone today the situation in the Middle East.

The Quartet welcomed the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in reaching the agreement to form a Palestinian National Unity government. The Quartet expressed hope that the desired calm would prevail.

While awaiting formation of the new Palestinian government, the Quartet reaffirmed its statement of February 2 regarding its support for a Palestinian government committed to non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.

Quartet members will meet February 21 in Berlin to continue their consideration of these developments, and to review formation and implementation of the agreement on the government. They welcomed the upcoming February 19 trilateral meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The Quartet will discuss the way ahead at the February 21 meeting.

Berlin, 21 February 2007

The Quartet principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – met today in Berlin to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

Secretary Rice reported on her recent 18 February meetings with Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas, the 19 February trilateral and United States efforts to facilitate discussions between the parties. The Quartet welcomed these efforts and expressed the hope that the result-oriented dialogue initiated between Israeli and Palestinian leaders will continue in the framework of a renewed political process, with the aim of defining more clearly the political horizon and launching meaningful negotiations. The Quartet reaffirmed its determination to promote such a process, in cooperation with the parties and other regional partners. The Quartet urged the parties to refrain from measures that prejudge issues to be resolved in negotiations.

The Quartet reaffirmed its statements regarding its support for a Palestinian Government committed to non-violence, recognition of Israel and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Road Map, and encouraged progress in this direction.

The Quartet discussed efforts under way for a Palestinian national unity Government, pursuant to the agreement reached in Mecca on 8 February. The Quartet expressed its appreciation for the role of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and the cessation of violence among Palestinians.

The Quartet concluded with a discussion of possible further steps by the international community in the context of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

It welcomed preliminary ideas put forward by the European Commission to meet the needs to better coordinate and mobilize international assistance in support of the political process and to meet the needs of the Palestinian people.

The Quartet reaffirmed its commitment to meet regularly and asked envoys to monitor developments and actions taken by the parties and to discuss the way ahead. It was agreed to schedule a meeting in the region soon.

21 March 2007

The Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – discussed by telephone the situation in the Middle East, and in particular the establishment of a Palestinian National Unity Government.

The Quartet reiterated its respect for Palestinian democracy and the agreement reached in Mecca on 8 February 2007, which laid the foundation for Palestinian reconciliation. The Quartet expressed hope that the establishment of a new government on 17 March 2007 would help end intra-Palestinian violence and ensure calm. The Quartet reaffirmed its previous statements with regard to the need for a Palestinian government committed to nonviolence, recog-

niton of Israel and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap, and encouraged progress in this direction. The Quartet agreed that the commitment of the new government in this regard will be measured not only on the basis of its composition and platform, but also its actions.

The Quartet expressed its expectation that the unity government will act responsibly, demonstrate clear and credible commitment to the Quartet principles, and support the efforts of President Abbas to pursue a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, thereby achieving the peace, security, and freedom the Israeli and Palestinian people desire and deserve.

The Quartet reiterated the continuing need to coordinate and mobilize international assistance in support of the Palestinian people, and endorsed the continuation of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) for a three-month period while it evaluates the situation and the international community works to develop a more sustainable international mechanism for support to the Palestinians.

The Quartet expressed its strong support for Secretary Rice's efforts to further facilitate discussions with President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert with the aim of defining more clearly the political horizon for the establishment of a Palestinian state and an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Quartet agreed to meet in the region soon to review developments and discuss the way ahead.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Brussels, 12 February 2007

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Financing of EU operations having military implications (Athena mechanism)

The Council adopted a decision amending decision 2004/197/CFSP on the mechanism for the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications (Athena mechanism) (16722/06).

The new decision introduces a series of technical modifications and reviews the different categories of items to be borne by Athena. It also provides for the financing by Athena of EU military actions in support of third states or third organisations.

Training programme in security and defence matters 2007-2009

The Council approved an EU training programme in the field of European security and defence policy for the years 2007 to 2009 (5565/1/07).

(...)

SUDAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU is alarmed by the impact of the deteriorating security situation on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Darfur and strongly condemns the killing of an AMIS police officer in Kutum on 1 February as well as the arrest and abuse of international humanitarian aid workers by Sudanese police forces in Nyala on 19 January. In this context the Council notes with concern the first case of a complete withdrawal by a humanitarian NGO from Darfur for security reasons, as well as the 17 January statement by the UN and NGOs that their operations may be unsustainable if the current situation persists. The Council reiterates its demand that all parties refrain from any form of violence against civilians and organisations providing humanitarian assistance. The Council urges all parties to respect their ceasefire commitments, recalling that UN Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005) determines that those impeding the peace process shall be held responsible and appropriate measures shall be taken accordingly.
2. The Council remains gravely concerned about the security situation in Darfur and condemns continued ceasefire violations by all parties. It denounces in particular the bombing of areas in Northern Darfur by the Sudanese Air Force, which disrupted the preparations for a meeting of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) commanders despite the fact that the Sudanese government had earlier declared its consent to the meeting.
3. The Council is very concerned about the most recent findings by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the situation in Darfur. It welcomes the final establishment of the UN Human Rights Council High-Level

Assessment Mission to Darfur, which has taken up its work on 9 February. The EU appreciates the important work of the mission. It urges the government of Sudan not to prevent the mission from fulfilling its crucial task and to issue the necessary visas as soon as possible.

4. The Council emphasises the need for an inclusive political process to solve the conflict in Darfur and confirms its support for the joint initiative of the AU and UN Special envoys to start negotiations between the parties as soon as possible. It expresses its expectation that SLM and other movements will prepare for early talks aiming at sustainable peace in Darfur, and welcomes recent initiatives in this respect.

5. The EU welcomes the agreement between the AU and UN on the details of the Heavy Support Package for AMIS. It encourages them to work jointly for its speedy implementation and to finalise the plans for the agreed hybrid force as soon as possible. The EU calls on the Sudanese government to cooperate in full with the preparations for and the deployment of the hybrid force. The Council reiterates its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs its implementation. The EU remains committed to supporting AMIS in the transition period to the hybrid force. The Council will remain seized of this matter. At the same time, it encourages other donors to make additional contributions.

6. The destabilising effects of the Darfur conflict in the wider region, in particular in Chad and in the Central African Republic, are of continuing concern to the Council. The Council calls on governments and other parties to cease all support for rebel movements active in the territory of another country.

7. The Council also expresses its deep concern about the deteriorating security situation in Southern Sudan and in this context strongly condemns the attack on an UNMIS escort near Magwe on 26 January in which an UNMIS soldier was killed. The Council further calls on the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to refrain from violence and to renew their efforts to fully implement the CPA.'

SOMALIA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. Recalling its conclusions of 22 January 2007, the Council reaffirms its support for the implementation of the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) through the consolidation of broad-based and inclusive Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and the reestablishment of effective and representative governance. It emphasises that a comprehensive and inclusive political process, reaching out to all sectors of Somali society, is a necessary pre-condition for the achievement of lasting stability and reconciliation.

2. The Council therefore welcomes President Abdullahi Yusuf's commitment announced at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa to launch a national, broad-based process of inter-Somali dialogue, involving representatives of clans, civil society, business community, religious and political groups. The EU hopes that this process will start as early as possible and is ready to assist in this dialogue.

3. The Council reaffirms the EU's willingness to assist efforts to bring about genuine and credible dialogue for reconciliation, including through support for reconciliation conferences and capacity building for administrative and political institutions, on the basis of concrete and monitorable steps. It looks forward to continuing contacts with representatives from the TFIs on the necessary steps towards reconciliation and the reconstruction of Somalia.

4. The Council calls on the Somali government to lift the state of emergency as soon as possible. In particular, the Council looks forward to the early establishment of conditions that would allow the Transitional Federal Parliament to fully assume the role entrusted to it by the TFC and to convene in Mogadishu as soon as possible, with all its members present.

5. The Council welcomes current efforts to establish the Africa Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in order to support political dialogue and create conditions for the stabilisation of the country and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Somalia. It stresses the EU's will to contribute to the financing of AMISOM through the African Peace Facility, as soon as the necessary requirements have been met, including a relevant UN Security Council resolution. The EU will consider possible logistical and technical support for AMISOM, as appropriate.

6. The Council underlines the vital role of the UN in contributing to the longer-term stability of Somalia. The EU underscores the importance to promote regional confidence building and that stabilisation in Somalia facilitates broader stability in the Horn of Africa region. The Council welcomes the outcome of the Somalia International Contact Group meeting in Dar-es-Salaam on 9 February.'

AFGHANISTAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The Council confirmed the EU's strong long-term commitment to Afghanistan, as expressed by the European Council on 14 December 2006.

Following on from its conclusions of 11 December 2006, the Council approved the Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for an ESDP mission to Afghanistan in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law. A Concept of Operations for the mission is now to be developed on this basis. The Council agreed that the ESDP mission to Afghanistan would provide added-value. The mission will work towards an Afghan police force in local ownership, that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law. The mission should build on current efforts, and follow a comprehensive and strategic approach, in line with the CMC. In doing so, the mission should address issues of police reform at central, regional and provincial level, as appropriate. Close coordination with partners should be ensured, and the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) and its Secretariat should be a key mechanism for such cooperation. As part of an overall and coordinated European approach, the EU special representative has an important role to play, also with regard to the ESDP mission. The ESDP mission should comprise an element to assist coordination of contributions, both equipment and rehabilitation of police infrastructure.

Particular attention should be paid to ensuring complementarity and mutual reinforcement with actions of the European Community, especially its proposed engagement with reform of the justice sector. This justice programme will aim to professionalise the judicial and public prosecution service eg through reforms to pay, grading and recruitment, as well as the establishment of a code of ethics. The programme could also assist in the development of a new national legal aid system and thus improve citizens' access to justice. This work is being designed to dovetail with the ESDP mission.

In the same spirit, the Council welcomed the holding of a meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) at Political Director level, in Berlin on 30 January 2007. This was an important contribution to enhancing the coordination of the international community's

efforts in Afghanistan. The Council underlined its appreciation for the central role of the JCMB as the main coordination body, both within the international community and with the Government of Afghanistan, and recognised the important work being done in this framework. The Council underlined the importance of strengthened coordination taking place in Kabul.

Finally, the Council welcomed the holding in Berlin of the second EU ministerial Troika meeting with Afghanistan, which took place on Monday 29 January 2007. This was the occasion to send the clear message that the EU stands by Afghanistan. The Council agreed that the EU would continue to work together with the Government of Afghanistan to stabilise and rebuild that country, by addressing issues of both security and development.’

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed the situation following recent elections in Serbia and, in the presence of UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari, the state of play regarding the status of Kosovo, following the presentation of his proposals. It adopted the following conclusions:

‘SERBIA

The Council welcomed the visit of the EU Troika to Belgrade on 7 February. It called upon the political leaders in Serbia quickly to form a government committed to reform and a European future. The Council remains fully committed to Serbia’s EU perspective and is ready to work with such a new government towards this goal. Serbia remains welcome to join the European Union. Recalling its conclusions of 3 October 2005, the Council welcomed the Commission’s readiness to resume negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with a new government in Belgrade provided it shows clear commitment and takes concrete and effective action for full cooperation with the ICTY. In addition, the EU welcomes the significant progress achieved in the negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission and looks forward to concluding them soon. The EU is ready to consider other concrete measures which would help Serbia to integrate swiftly into the family of European nations.

SERBIA/KOSOVO

The Council expressed its full support for the UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and his efforts in conducting the political process to determine Kosovo’s future status. His proposals presented to both parties on 2 February provide comprehensive arrangements designed to promote in Kosovo a multi-ethnic and democratic society based on the rule of law. They include extensive measures to safeguard the future of all communities living in Kosovo, especially the Kosovo Serbs. The Council believes that the proposals create the basis for Kosovo’s sustainable economic and political development and for strengthening the stability of the entire region. The proposals represent the result of one year of intensive negotiations including direct talks between the two sides. The status process has now entered its decisive stage. The Council welcomed Martti Ahtisaari’s intention to engage the parties in a period of intensive consultations with a view to achieving further progress in a spirit of compromise on the basis of his proposals. It strongly urged Belgrade and Pristina to participate actively and constructively in these consultations.

The EU stands ready to play a significant role in the implementation of the status settlement. The final decision on the status of Kosovo should be endorsed by the UN Security Council. The Council decided to intensify the preparation for a future EU and international presence in Kosovo in coordination with other international actors. It invited the HR/SG and the Commission to submit a further report on the state of these preparations.’

IRAN

Over lunch, ministers held an exchange of views on the EU’s Iran policy and registered continued support for the two track approach as outlined in the Council’s conclusions on 22 January. The EU implements the measures in UN Security Council Resolution 1737, which are targeted against the most sensitive parts of the Iranian nuclear and missile programmes (see below). At the same time, it continues to support efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution, which would open the way for a new relationship with Iran based on mutual respect and expanded cooperation. In this context the President of the Council and the High Representative briefed partners on their informal contacts with Iran’s national security adviser, Ali Larijani, in Munich on 11 February. The Council will return to the issue of relations with Iran at a forthcoming meeting.

* * *

The Council reached political agreement on a draft common position concerning restrictive measures against Iran, with a view to implementing UN Security Council resolution 1737. The common position is aimed at imposing at EU level restrictive measures against Iran, namely a ban on the supply of goods and technology related to Iran’s nuclear and missile programmes; a visa ban against persons and a freeze of assets against persons and entities listed in resolution 1737 and other persons or entities associated with these programmes; and steps to prevent specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals in disciplines related to these fields. (see details in General Affairs press release, 6033/07).

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council welcomed the fact that an agreement has been reached in Mecca on 8 February on the formation of a Palestinian national unity government. It paid tribute to the sustained efforts of President Abbas to form a government of national unity and expressed its appreciation for the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Arab leaders in bringing about Palestinian reconciliation. The EU stands ready to work with a legitimate Palestinian government that adopts a platform reflecting the Quartet principles and welcomed the Quartet statement of 9 February.

The Council also welcomed the statement by the Quartet at its meeting in Washington on 2 February, in particular its intention to give active follow-up to meetings between Israeli and Palestinian leaders and to remain closely engaged at this moment of increased activity and dialogue. The Council looks forward to early and regular meetings of the Quartet at Principals’ and envoys’ level on the basis of an agreed calendar, including meetings with the parties and other

regional parties. It welcomes the Quartet's commitment to monitor developments and actions taken by the parties and to discuss the way ahead.

The Council expressed its full support for the forthcoming meeting between Prime Minister Olmert, President Abbas and Secretary of State Rice, and encouraged the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to launch a process with the goal of ending the occupation that began in 1967 and creating an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state, living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel.

The Council looks forward to the next Quartet meeting at Principals' level on 21 February in Berlin to further discuss the way forward.

Reiterating its position, as set out in the European Council Declaration of 14 and 15 December 2006 and the General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions of 22 January 2007, the EU underlines its determination to pursue its practical measures and to continue playing an active political role, notably in the framework of increased Quartet engagement.'

LEBANON – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'1. The Council welcomes the success of the international conference in support of Lebanon held in Paris on 25 January 2007. By pledging more than USD 7.6 billion in aid, the international community has sent a strong message of support to the people of Lebanon and its legitimate and democratically elected government.

2. The EU and its Member States contributed more than 40 % of the total aid pledged at the Paris Conference. These resources will contribute to meeting the challenges of reconstruction and macroeconomic stabilization, to the benefit of the entire Lebanese population. In this respect, the Council commends the ambitious Programme on Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform adopted by the government of Lebanon on 4 January 2007, notably its social component, as well as the commitment in principle to the signing of a post-conflict agreement with the IMF. The adoption of the EU-Lebanon Action Plan in the context of the Neighbourhood Policy will enable further deepening of our existing cooperation within the framework of the Association Agreement and of the Barcelona Process.

3. The Council expresses great concern about the renewed violent clashes of the past weeks in Lebanon. It urges all parties to refrain from all forms of violence and to do everything possible to prevent an escalation of the situation. A solution to the current political deadlock should be sought only through dialogue and with full respect for the democratic institutions of the country. The Council urges all Lebanese actors to actively engage in such a dialogue. It reiterates its appreciation for all constructive international mediation efforts, in particular those by the Secretary General of the Arab League, to facilitate an intra-Lebanese agreement.

4. The Council recalls its commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon. It renews its call for the full and speedy implementation of Resolution 1701, 1664 and all other relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and reminds all parties in the region of their obligations thereunder. The Council reiterates its call on Syria and other countries in the region to refrain from interfering in the domestic affairs of Lebanon. They must actively engage in the stabilisation of Lebanon.'

(...)

North Korea – Six Party Talks

Following Korea's announcement in October 2006 that it had carried out a nuclear test, the Union tried to convince Pyongyang to re-engage in dialogue and to respect the agreement on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula reached in September 2005. On 13 February, the participants in the Six Party Talks (China, North Korea, South Korea, the United States, Japan and Russia) reached a consensus on the implementation of this agreement. The statements issued by Javier Solana and by the presidency are reproduced below.

Brussels, 13 February 2007

JAVIER SOLANA COMMENTS ON THE AGREEMENT AT SIX-PARTY TALKS ON THE DPRK NUCLEAR ISSUE

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), made the following comments on the agreement reached today in Beijing on a package of measures to start the practical implementation of the September 2005 Six Party Talks Joint Declaration:

‘This is good news. The EU has been consistent in calling on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to re-engage in dialogue and to take forward the agreement on denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula reached in September 2005.

The positive steps announced today are the first stage in that process. I welcome it and I offer my congratulations to China as host and facilitator, as well as to all the other participants, for their success in securing this agreement.

The EU has underlined repeatedly its support for the Six Party Talks process, and will continue to consult with the Six to establish the best means by which the EU can assist the implementation of the September 2005 agreement.’

Brussels, 14 February 2007

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE SIX PARTY TALKS

The EU welcomes the agreement which was reached by the participants at the last round of the Six Party Talks that ended on 13 February. The accord constitutes a first important step towards the implementation of the commitments that were laid down in the Joint Declaration of the Six Parties of 19 September 2005.

The EU looks forward to the early implementation of this agreement and the continuation of discussions among the Six Parties on all of the commitments contained in the Joint Declaration. The EU will continue its political support for the Six Party Talks and for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. In order to underline the importance that the EU attaches to positive developments on the Korean peninsula, the EU is considering sending an EU Troika mission to DPRK.

EU Battlegroups

Brussels, February 2007

The ability for the EU to deploy force packages at high readiness as a response to a crisis is an essential aspect of the ESDP and a key element of the EU's military capabilities development and of the 2010 Headline Goal. On 1 January 2007, the EU Battlegroups achieved full operational capability. Two battlegroups are currently on standby. Germany, the Netherlands and Finland contribute one while France and Belgium form a second.

FACTSHEET

Full Operational Capability 2007

The European Union is a global actor, ready to undertake its share of responsibility for global security. With the introduction of the Battlegroup Concept the Union has another military instrument at its disposal for early and rapid responses when necessary. Since January 2005, the EU Battlegroup Concept has reached its Initial Operational Capability. This means that the EU has at least one Battle Group on standby on a permanent basis. On 1 January 2007 the EU Battlegroup Concept reached Full Operational Capability. From that date the EU will be able to fulfil its ambition of having the capacity to undertake two concurrent single battlegroup-sized rapid response operations, including the ability to launch both such operations nearly simultaneously.

At the 1999 Helsinki European Council, Rapid Response was identified as an important aspect of EU crisis management. As a result, the Helsinki Headline Goal 2003 assigned to Member States the objective of being able to provide rapid response elements available and deployable at very high levels of readiness.

Subsequently an EU Military Rapid Response Concept was developed. In June 2003, the first EU autonomous military crisis management operation, Operation Artemis, was launched. It showed very successfully the EU's ability to operate with a rather small force at a distance of more than 6 000 km from Brussels. Moreover, it demonstrated the need for further development of rapid response capabilities. Subsequently, Operation 'Artemis' became a reference model for the development of a battlegroup-sized rapid response capability. In 2004, the Headline Goal 2010 aimed for the completion of the development of rapidly deployable battlegroups, including the identification of appropriate strategic lift, sustainability and debarkation assets by 2007.

Within this context and based on a French/British/German initiative, the EU Military Staff (EUMS) developed the Battlegroup Concept. In June 2004, the EU Military Committee (EUMC) agreed the Battlegroup Concept, and since then the work has been taken forward, based on an agreed roadmap. The work was concluded in October 2006 with the delivery of one single Battlegroup Concept document.

Basic features

The battlegroup is the minimum militarily effective, credible, rapidly deployable, coherent force package capable of stand-alone operations, or of being used for the initial phase of larger operations. It is based on a combined arms, battalion-sized force and reinforced with combat

support and combat service support elements. In its generic composition, but depending on the mission, the battlegroups are about 1 500 personnel strong.

The battlegroups are based on the principle of multinationality and may be formed by a framework nation or by a multinational coalition of Member States for an autonomous EU operation. In all cases, interoperability and military effectiveness will be key criteria. A battlegroup is associated with a deployable force headquarters and pre-identified operational and strategic enablers, such as strategic lift and logistics. Member States may also contribute niche capabilities, providing specific elements with added value to the battlegroups. The battlegroups are sustainable for 30 days in initial operations, extendable to 120 days, if re-supplied appropriately.

Tasks

Battlegroups will be employable across the full range of tasks listed in Article 17.2 of the Treaty on European Union and those identified in the European Security Strategy, in particular in tasks of combat forces in crisis management, bearing in mind their size. Based on the Headline Goal 2010, which places the emphasis on rapid response and deployability, the EU has progressed well in further developing its military capability. As a basis for the capability development process, the following five illustrative scenarios have been used: conflict prevention, separation of parties by force, stabilisation, reconstruction and military advice to third countries, evacuation operations and assistance to humanitarian operations. Although the battlegroup capability could be used in all scenarios, the latter two scenarios in particular have specific requirements for rapid response. A possible option is for an EU battlegroup to be used in an EU autonomous initial operation in order to enable other organisations (e.g. the UN) to generate the necessary forces for a subsequent larger crisis management operation. The operation would as a rule be conducted under a UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR), although operations could be envisaged where a UNSCR would not be necessary (e.g. evacuation of EU citizens).

Standards, training and certification

To qualify as an EU battlegroup, the battlegroup packages have to meet commonly defined and agreed military capability standards. Standards and criteria, set by Member States, form the basis for developing specific instructions to ensure coherence between the constituent parts of the battlegroup package, taking into account the demands for multinationality. A basic principle is that the battlegroup training is the responsibility of the Member States concerned. The EU facilitates the coordination among Member States. The certification of battlegroups also remains a national responsibility of the contributing Member States. The EU Military Committee, assisted by the EU Military Staff, monitors the battlegroup certification process. Training is a key requirement for battlegroups. Member States are conducting a series of exercises in this context. For instance, exercise European Endeavour 06 was carried out in Germany in November 2006 to certify the German/Dutch/Finnish Battlegroup Force Headquarters. Exercise Quick Response conducted in Belgium in September 2006 also featured an EU battlegroup. Other examples include the Swedish-led exercise 'Illuminated Summer' in July 2007 in the context of the Nordic Battlegroup, and the Greek-led exercise EVROP II-07 in May 2007 for the 'HELBROC' Battlegroup. The certification of the battlegroup package by the Member States will provide the EU with the necessary assurance that it

is ready for a possible mission. The Operation Commander, who will be appointed by the Council on a case-by-case basis, has the authority to tailor the command and control structure and the battlegroup package to the specific requirements of the operation.

Battlegroup commitments

The Member States conduct the generation of a battlegroup package and are responsible for offering a complete package. The battlegroup package has no fixed structure and thus provides Member States with the necessary flexibility to form their own battlegroup package. This could lead, for instance, to battlegroups with a mountain or amphibious capability. This flexibility facilitates a smoother force generation and a broader spectrum of capability. The Member States offer their battlegroup packages at the sixmonthly EUMS-chaired Battlegroup Coordination Conferences (BGCC). The planning horizon of the BGCC is five years. It is up to the Member States how they constitute a battlegroup package, for what time frame it will be offered, and how often. The last BGCC before Full Operational Capability was held on 27 October 2006. It confirmed that 2007 and 2008 are completely subscribed. MS have committed several other battlegroup packages for the period after these years. Operation headquarters are pre-identified for most of the battlegroup packages. At the beginning of 2007, the EU will welcome potential contributions from 25 Member States, one candidate state and one non-EU NATO country, filling over 20 time slots with battlegroup packages.

Role of the Battlegroup Concept

The Battlegroup Concept provides the EU with a specific tool in the range of rapid response capabilities, which contributes to making the EU more coherent, more active and more capable. The Battlegroup Concept enables the EU to respond rapidly to emerging crises with military means, taking into account the size and capabilities of the battlegroups on standby. The Battlegroup Concept also has the potential to be a driver for capability development and for making the armed forces of Member States more capable of undertaking rapid long-range deployments. Significantly, the need for additional strategic lift capabilities is underlined by the Battlegroup Concept. Furthermore, the Battlegroup Concept emphasises the need for accelerated decision-making. Not only do the EU bodies need to be ready but the national decision-making processes need to be synchronised to meet the demanding timelines. Setting up a battlegroup package is an opportunity for enhanced military co-operation between Member States. This improves mutual knowledge of each other's capabilities with regard to military means and political decision-making. Finally, the Battlegroup Concept reinforces the EU's military identity in a concrete manner.

The European Union Battlegroups

Since the Battlegroup Concept was agreed in June 2004, much has been achieved. With the full commitment of the Member States, the Battlegroup Concept has already shown its potential value in securing increased co-operation and capability development among Member States. It has contributed to enhancing the EU's capability to deal with rapid response and will continue to do so.

Informal meeting of the Defence Ministers

Wiesbaden, 1-2 March 2007

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

OPERATIONS

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Political situation

- ▶ The new government was confirmed on 9 February. However, more than 4 months after elections, there is still no Government at the Federation level and only 4 out of 10 cantons have governments.
- ▶ On police reform, at the end of December, the Police Reform Directorate submitted its report to the Council of Ministers. Since the previous Government failed to act on it, it is now up to the new Council of Ministers Chair Špirić to move the process forward. Unfortunately, the talks organised by Špirić and attended by all key political leaders yielded no concrete results so far.
- ▶ The Peace Implementation Council Political Directors met earlier this week in Brussels and decided to extend the OHR and the Bonn powers until mid 2008.

Operation ALTHEA

- ▶ Le 27 février, le Comité politique et de sécurité (COPS) a approuvé le plan d'opération révisé de l'opération Althea qui prévoit la reconfiguration de l'EUFOR. Ainsi l'EUFOR peut commencer sa reconfiguration qui doit s'achever à la fin du mois de mai.
- ▶ La situation sécuritaire en Bosnie-Herzégovine demeure stable et l'impact potentiel des développements régionaux doit, estime-t-on, rester limité et contrôlable. La décision de reconfigurer l'EUFOR a été prise dans ce contexte: l'absence de progrès dans le domaine politique n'a plus d'impact direct sur la situation sécuritaire. Les risques et incertitudes résiduelles qui demeurent à propos de la situation sécuritaire en Bosnie-Herzégovine sont prises en compte. L'EUFOR se reconfigure mais ne quitte pas la Bosnie-Herzégovine.
- ▶ Permettez-moi de rappeler brièvement les principales caractéristiques de la reconfiguration de l'EUFOR. Les effectifs de l'EUFOR vont diminuer pour s'établir à 2.500 hommes. Les unités de manoeuvre – un bataillon – seront basées à Sarajevo mais l'EUFOR continuera d'être présente sur tout le territoire de la Bosnie-Herzégovine grâce aux équipes de liaison et d'observation et grâce à la capacité de déployer des troupes rapidement. L'EUFOR sera capable de répondre immédiatement si cela est nécessaire et des renforts importants seront toujours disponibles grâce aux unités placées « au-delà de l'horizon ». Par ailleurs, pendant une période initiale de six mois, l'EUFOR conservera la capacité de rétablir ses capacités actuelles, si cela est nécessaire.

Kosovo

Political process

- ▶ The EU continues to fully support UN Status Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and his efforts in conducting the political process to determine Kosovo's future.
- ▶ The EU welcomes UN Status Envoy Martti Ahtisaari's intention to engage Belgrade and Pristina in a period of intensive consultations with a view to achieving further progress in a spirit of compromise on the basis of his proposals. Therefore, we continue to encourage both Belgrade and Pristina to participate actively and constructively in the status process.
- ▶ Settling the status of Kosovo is about consolidating stability in the region and uncertainty is destabilising. We do not want to see the region destabilise again. A stable Kosovo is also key for a stable Serbia.
- ▶ The EU has invested heavily in the Balkans, both economically and politically, and we want to find a sustainable solution to the Kosovo issue soon. When the time comes, we should support Martti Ahtisaari to present his proposal to the UN Security Council.
- ▶ On the ground in Kosovo, it is encouraging to see the Kosovo leadership demonstrating its commitment to progress on standards implementation and we shall continue pressing, together with UNMIK, the Kosovo government to produce tangible results.
- ▶ UNMIK remains fully in charge until UNSCR 1244 is replaced by another UNSCR, which should provide a clear mandate for the future international presence.
- ▶ A viable settlement requires a UN Security Council Resolution. It must be based on functional and sustainable solutions. It must also include comprehensive and effective measures to ensure the security and the future of all communities in Kosovo.
- ▶ The EU preparations for our contribution to the post-status international presence in Kosovo are well underway.
- ▶ Underlining that the EU stands ready to play a significant role in the implementation of the status settlement, the Council decided on 12 February to intensify preparations for a future EU and international presence in Kosovo in coordination with other international actors.
- ▶ Our EU Preparation Team for the future International Civilian Office (ICO) is working closely on the ground together with KFOR, UNMIK and the Kosovo leadership, in preparing the transition and the establishment of the ICO.

ESDP mission

- ▶ EU ready to assume its responsibilities.
- ▶ EU planning is on track. EU planning retains all flexibility, in order to adjust to evolving political and security situation.
- ▶ Very good relations with NATO/KFOR (both in Brussels and on the ground). There is detailed, frequent and effective interaction between staff.
- ▶ Work is under way for technical arrangements between the future international military presence and the future ESDP mission. These would cover the areas of borders; military support to police operations; crowd and riot control; and information and intelligence sharing.
- ▶ We are looking forward to the participation of non-EU NATO member states in the ESDP mission; they are regularly informed of the planning process.
- ▶ We are working closely with the UN to prepare for a seamless transition, making sure that there will be no security gaps and that UNMIK will remain efficient throughout the transition.

- ▶ Deployment will already start during the transition phase, giving us the possibility of reinforcing the UN if appropriate and required. An important number of pre-identified elements of UNMIK (from EU Member states and third states contributing to the ESDP mission) will transition to the ESDP mission on the day of Transfer of Authority.

Afghanistan

- ▶ The EU is planning for an ESDP police mission in Afghanistan.
- ▶ It is foreseen that the mission will be launched in June 2007.
- ▶ It will consist of 160 police officers deployed at central (Kabul), regional (the 5 regional police commands) and provincial levels (deployment in provinces, mostly in PRTs).
- ▶ The mission will build on efforts already deployed on the ground by the international community.
- ▶ A key element of the mission is in ensuring the extension of the power of the State to the provinces.
- ▶ Another main objective is to achieve greater coherence by bringing together within an ESDP operation most of the international efforts in the field of police in Afghanistan.
- ▶ Many non-EU States that are actively contributing to the reform of police in Afghanistan have already indicated to us that they would be willing to work within an ESDP operation. I want to thank them wholeheartedly. We are looking forward to working with them in the preparation of the Mission and its implementation.
- ▶ We are also working hand in hand with the US who are engaged with their own programme for reform of the police in Afghanistan.
- ▶ This complements the significant EU financial and political support to Afghanistan.
- ▶ It will require close co-operation between the EU and NATO, not least because part of the envisaged EU police deployment will take place within PRTs.
- ▶ This co-operation has already started in the preparatory phase and I wish to express my thanks to NATO for the support the EU planning team has already received from the NATO Secretariat and ISAF on the ground.

(...)

Sudan/Darfur

- ▶ Darfur remains high on our agenda. The security and humanitarian situation is deteriorating and continues to cause grave concern. The destabilising effects on neighbouring countries continue to threaten the whole region.
- ▶ But, there is now more vigorous action with a view to a political solution. We should fully support the renewed efforts of the United Nations Envoy (Jan Eliasson), in coordination with the African Union Envoy (Salim Ahmed Salim) to push for the observance of the cease-fire. Without lowering the level of violence, it will be difficult to revitalize the political process.
- ▶ There is some progress regarding the implementation of the UN support package to the African Union Mission (AMIS). The Light Support Package is nearing completion and the AU/UN have reached agreement on the more significant Heavy Support Package. The AU and UN must now accelerate the implementation of the Heavy Package and the preparations for the agreed AU/UN Hybrid force.

- ▶ The Government of Sudan, having signaled its acceptance of the three phase package last December, must now support its words with deeds and fully support and facilitate the implementation without further delay.
- ▶ It is clear that the AU will continue to need support for some time. Substantial funds continue to be needed as it is likely to be some time before the AU/UN hybrid force, and with it UN financing, will be in place. AMIS will not be able to continue, let alone enhance its capabilities, without regular, significant donations. We will keep the requirement for EU technical and logistic support under review as the UN package is implemented.

EU-UN Cooperation

- ▶ Effective cooperation with the UN is one of the main objectives of the EU, and this has been illustrated by the EU's concrete, operational commitment.
- ▶ The initiative taken by the Presidency, to organise a seminar on EU-UN, to discuss military aspects of cooperation is welcomed by the EU.
- ▶ EUFOR RD Congo has demonstrated the EU's commitment to deliver on the joint Declaration of Cooperation of September 2003 and the EU's willingness to put its support to effective multilateralism into practice. Close cooperation between Brussels and New York on the one hand, and on the ground between EUFOR and the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) on the other, was fundamental to success in the DRC.
- ▶ Regarding the more technical and practical aspects of the EU-UN co-operation, the Secretariat of the Council has, in conjunction with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), conducted an analysis of how we might – for the benefit of future operations – build on the experience gained from the co-operation between the UN and the EU in EUFOR RD Congo.
- ▶ To this effect practical measures have been agreed between the DPKO and the Secretariat to ensure a systematic and structured co-ordination and co-operation from as early on in the planning process as possible.

Capacités militaires

- ▶ Le processus de développement capacitaire a pour but d'identifier les capacités manquantes aux Etats membres pour réaliser l'ambition politique globale de l'UE.
- ▶ Il a été à ce jour mis en œuvre à deux reprises. Le « Progress Catalogue 2007 » sera finalisé sous présidence portugaise et remplacera le « Progress Catalogue » agréé en 2003.
- ▶ Nous connaissons bien les principes qui fondent ce processus, notamment :
 - | des scénarios illustrant des missions possibles dans le cadre de la PESD,
 - | des contributions volontaires,
 - | une grande flexibilité.
- ▶ Ce processus a remporté des succès indéniables :
 - | une participation de tous les Etats Membres quel soit le niveau de leur contribution,
 - | des progrès dans le domaine qualitatif.

European Defence Agency (EDA)

- ▶ The Agency delivered a number of important outputs in the second semester of last year:
- ▶ First, we took the first steps towards a European defence equipment market with the launch of the Electronic Bulletin Board for defence procurement. 14 of you are now advertising nearly EUR 7 billion of defence business on the Agency's website to suppliers across Europe.
- ▶ The National Armaments Directors opened up the issue of the technological and industrial base.
- ▶ After our meeting in Finland, we published the Long-Term Vision. This has been well received, and recognised as an important milestone in the development of ESDP.
- ▶ We launched the first R&T Joint Investment Programme with 19 participating Member States contributing a total of EUR 55 million. A concrete step forward, spending more and better together.
- ▶ The Capability Directors gave their backing to the Capability Development Plan, which we have just discussed.
- ▶ This year the EDA will produce a charter on developing the European industrial and technological base, following the successful 1 February conference in Brussels.
- ▶ The EDA will also push ahead with the Capability Development Plan.

FACTSHEET – EU MILITARY OPERATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (OPERATION EUFOR-ALTHEA)

28 February 2007

Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) – launched on 2 December 2004 – has successfully contributed to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment in BiH.

The security situation in BiH has evolved enough to permit the European Union to decide on a transition of operation ALTHEA.

Transition

The EU decided on 27 February to confirm its decision to implement a transition of military operation EUFOR ALTHEA in the light of the security situation in the country and taking into account the potential effect of the regional security situation.

The EU will reduce EUFOR's size but keep an appropriate robust military presence as part of its overall engagement in BiH, contributing to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment.

EUFOR will reconfigure progressively, but will also maintain the capacity to reverse the effects of the force reduction for an initial period of 6 months and to re-establish a more robust military presence if needed.

Under the transition plan, in 2007 the EU force (EUFOR) will retain around 2,500 troops in BiH, able to respond should the security situation require it. A multinational manoeuvre battalion will be based in Sarajevo and, in addition, EUFOR will retain its presence throughout the country through the liaison and observation teams (LOTs). EUFOR will retain its capacity to react throughout the country to any possible security challenges and reserve forces will be available over the horizon.

The EU will keep through EUFOR an effective military force in BiH, in accordance with its peace-enforcement mandate under Chapter VII of UN Charter (Security Council resolution 1551).

EUFOR will continue to provide support to the ICTY, including the detention of persons indicted for war crimes, while noting that the responsibility for full cooperation with ICTY rests with the BiH authorities.

The parameters of the operation:

- The military operation ALTHEA in BiH was launched on 2 December 2004. The decision to launch Operation ALTHEA followed the decision by NATO to conclude its SFOR-operation and the adoption by the UN Security Council of resolution 1575 authorising the deployment of an EU force in BiH. In the framework of Operation ALTHEA, the EU deployed a robust force (EUFOR) in BiH (7000 troops), under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, to ensure continued compliance with the Dayton/Paris Agreement and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in BiH. Operation ALTHEA is carried out with recourse to NATO assets and capabilities, under the « Berlin Plus » arrangements.
- The main objectives of Operation ALTHEA are:
 - First and foremost, to maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH and to ensure continued compliance with the Dayton/Paris agreement (General Framework Agreement for Peace / GFAP);
 - Also, to support the international community's High Representative/EU Special Representative for BiH and the local authorities, inter alia in the fight against organised crime.
- In addition, EUFOR provides support to the ICTY and relevant authorities, including for the detention of persons indicted for war crimes. It also contributes to defence reform in BiH.
- Operation ALTHEA is carried out with recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities, on the basis agreed with NATO ('Berlin Plus'). The Operation Commander is General Sir John Reith (UK).
- ALTHEA's Force Headquarters is situated in Sarajevo (Camp Butmir). The current EU Force Commander is Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer (Germany).
- The EU's Political and Security Committee exercises the political control and strategic direction of the operation, under the responsibility of the Council of the EU.
- The common costs of Operation ALTHEA are paid through contributions by Member States to a financial mechanism (Athena) based on GDP.
- The EU Force (EUFOR) currently (i.e. pre-transition) comprises some 6,200 troops who operate under a UN Chapter VII mandate, as specified in UN Security Council Resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006). The force includes troops from twenty-four EU Member States. Albania, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey also participate in the operation.
- On 27 February 2007, the EU decided to reduce EUFOR's size to some 2,500 troops. EUFOR will reconfigure progressively, but will also maintain the capacity to reverse the effects of the force reduction for an initial period of 6 months and to re-establish a more robust military presence if needed.

Achievements to date

Operation ALTHEA has successfully ensured compliance with the Dayton agreement and contributed to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment in BiH through deterrence and reassurance.

Deterrence and reassurance are ensured by showing presence, visibility and exerting robustness, and authority. In this context, for instance, EUFOR continues regularly to carry out

important weapons collection activities across the country, it has conducted searches of companies suspected of pursuing activities in contravention of the GFAP and it has also supported de-mining operations.

EUFOR has been pro-active in ensuring the integration of its efforts with other EU actors in theatre, including the EU Special Representative (EUSR), the EU Police Mission (EUPM) and the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM). The synergies that this holistic EU approach brings have had a positive effect in helping BiH progress toward a European perspective.

In addition to working closely with other EU actors in BiH, EUFOR supports the international community generally and, of course, the local authorities. EUFOR has conducted operations to help the local law enforcement agencies disrupt illegal activities by those involved in organised crime and against illegal logging. These operations, conducted at the request of local authorities and with EUPM's endorsement, have helped develop and strengthen the capacity of the local law enforcement agencies. EUPM has successfully assumed the leading role in coordinating the policing aspects of the ESDP efforts in the fight against organised crime. EUFOR cooperates closely with EUPM (on the basis of common operational guidelines) in this area.

By supporting the local law enforcement agencies in fighting against organised crime, EUFOR has also helped to disrupt support to ICTY indictees and further contribute to a safe and secure environment.

The EU and BiH

The EU continues to fully support the European perspective of BiH. The future for BiH lies in a well functioning and stable multiethnic state, based on democracy and the rule of law, within its internationally recognised borders.

Operation ALTHEA is part of a closely co-ordinated EU presence in BiH. The EU Special Representative continues to promote overall EU political co-ordination and coherence in BiH.

More than € 2.5 billion of European Community funds have been committed for BiH since 1991 to dealing with conflict and post-conflict development in BiH (excluding bilateral aid from Member States, estimated at over € 1.8 billion for the period 1996-2001). From 1991 to 2000, EC assistance (ECHO, PHARE, Obnova) focused on refugee return programmes and reconstruction. From 2001 focus has shifted towards institutional capacity-building and economic development in accordance with the goals of the Stabilisation and Association Process – in short the preparation for further movement towards the EU.

The EC pre-accession financial assistance allocated to BiH amounts to € 51 million in 2006. BiH also participates in a number of other EU programmes. In addition to pre-accession assistance, Community funds amounting to approximately € 24.1 million were provided in 2006 to support the offices of the EU Police Mission, the High Representative, the EUSR and the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM).

BACKGROUND – PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE INTERNATIONAL AND EU PRESENCE IN KOSOVO

March 2007

The EU is fully committed to play a significant role in the implementation of the status for Kosovo settlement. Therefore, the ministers have decided to intensify the preparation for a future EU and international presence in Kosovo, in coordination with other international actors.

2007 will be the year of the status for Kosovo, but it will also be a year of great responsibilities. The international community and the European Union are playing an important role in the status process, and are preparing to play an important role in post-status settlement Kosovo.

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, on 2 February 2007, expressed his appreciation for the efforts of UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and welcomed the presentation of his draft comprehensive proposal for a Kosovo status settlement.

The international community's and the EU's future role is expected to be reflected in the establishment of an International Civilian Office (ICO) and an EU mission in the rule of law area under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

These arrangements are being prepared by two structures: the **ICO-EUSR Preparation Team**, representing both the international community and the EU, and the **European Union Planning Team for Kosovo (EUPT)**, working for the EU in setting up a future ESDP rule of law mission.

The purpose of the **ICO-EUSR Preparation Team** is:

- to prepare for a future International Civilian Office, led by an International Civilian Representative, double-hatted as EU Special Representative (ICR/EUSR). The ICR would oversee the implementation of the settlement, and have some clearly defined and reviewable executive powers;¹
- to prepare, in close cooperation with the Kosovo authorities and the transitional administration of the United Nations (UNMIK), for a transfer of authority from UNMIK towards the Kosovo authorities, and, to a limited extent, to a future international presence.

The future international presence in Kosovo after the status settlement is therefore expected to involve an International Civilian Office (ICO), an EU-led mission in the area of the rule of law, an international military presence provided by NATO, an OSCE mission, and a major capacity building effort by the European Community, the World Bank, UNDP, and other partners.

The ICO-EUSR Preparation Team plans for an office of around 70 international staff, based primarily in Pristina.

The 'double-hatted' ICR/EUSR is expected to act

- as ICR in questions regarding the oversight of the implementation of the Kosovo status settlement;

1. These clearly specified executive powers would include the authority: to make certain defined appointments in the economic sphere; to investigate and prosecute serious and sensitive crimes, jointly with Kosovo authorities or independently; to annul decisions taken and laws passed by governmental bodies or by Assemblies (at central and local level) which are at odds with the letter or spirit of the settlement; to sanction, or, in extremis, remove individuals, whom he/she judges to be acting in a manner designed to prevent implementation of the settlement.

- ▶ as EUSR regarding the anticipated EU mandate in questions related to the rule of law.

The ICR is foreseen to be an EU national, appointed by an International Steering Group following consultations within the European Union. The ICR would report directly to the International Steering Group, that will provide guidance to the ICR.

The purpose of the **EUPT for Kosovo** is to plan for a future ESDP mission that will:

- ▶ support the Kosovo authorities by monitoring, mentoring and advising on all areas related to the rule of law, in particular in the judiciary, police, customs and correctional services;
- ▶ ensure, in close cooperation with the Kosovo authorities, that serious crimes are properly investigated, prosecuted and that any outcome of these procedures is thereafter properly enforced;
- ▶ have some limited executive powers, that will be vested in the EUSR. In the broader field of the rule of law, these powers will be carried out on the EUSR's behalf by the ESDP mission.

The EU is planning for a mission in the range of 1,300-1,500 international police, judges, prosecutors, and customs officials, based in a Headquarter in Pristina or employed throughout the judicial and police system in Kosovo.

The Head of the ESDP mission is to be appointed by the Council of the European Union. The EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) is foreseen to provide the political control and strategic direction of the ESDP Mission. The Head of Mission would report to the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy through the EUSR.

Guiding principles for the envisaged international/EU presence in Kosovo:

- ▶ The EU is working on the understanding that after the status settlement, the governance of Kosovo will be in the hands of its people and their elected authorities. This implies a major shift from international governance towards Kosovo governance.
- ▶ Via a set of clearly defined executive powers, anticipated to be subject to review, and expected to be laid out in the settlement, the future international presence will provide strong guarantees and safeguards concerning status settlement implementation and the principles of the rule of law.
- ▶ As confirmed by the June 2003 Thessaloniki Summit, where the EU reiterated its unequivocal support to the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries, Kosovo is firmly anchored in the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP).

(...)

FACTSHEET – EU ENGAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

February 2007

The European Union has a longstanding commitment to Afghanistan and its government. It is a key donor (EUR 3.7 billion over 5 years) and, working with international partners, plays a major role in stabilisation and reconstruction efforts. It is now preparing for a police mission under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

Preparing for an ESDP mission

On 12 February 2007, the Council agreed on the principle of such a mission. Confirming the EU's strong long-term commitment to Afghanistan, it approved the Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for an ESDP mission to Afghanistan in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law. A Concept of Operations for the mission is now being developed on this basis.

The Council agreed that the ESDP mission to Afghanistan would provide added-value. The mission will work towards an Afghan police force in local ownership, that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law.

The mission will build on current efforts, and follow a comprehensive and strategic approach, in line with the CMC. In doing so, the mission will address issues of police reform at central, regional and provincial level, as appropriate. Close coordination with partners will be ensured, and the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) and its Secretariat should be a key mechanism for such cooperation. As part of an overall and coordinated European approach, the EU special representative has an important role to play, also with regard to the ESDP mission.

The ESDP mission should comprise an element to assist coordination of contributions towards both equipment and rehabilitation of police infrastructure.

Particular attention will be paid to ensuring complementarity and mutual reinforcement with activities of the European Community, especially its proposed engagement with reform of the justice sector. This justice programme will aim to professionalise the judicial and public prosecution service e.g. through reforms to pay, grading and recruitment, as well as the establishment of a code of ethics. The programme could also assist in the development of a new national legal aid system and thus improve citizens' access to justice. This work is being designed to dovetail with the ESDP mission.

A leading donor to Afghanistan with a concrete political and operational presence

► EU assistance to Afghanistan

The EU (European Community and member states) has disbursed collectively **EUR 3.7 billion** in aid to Afghanistan over five years (2002-2006), i.e. one third of the aid pledged by the international community. At the London Conference in spring 2006, the European Community and member states pledged a further USD 2.4 billion (about EUR 2 billion) for reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan over the coming years.

► **A political partnership**

The EU's partnership with Afghanistan is highlighted in the joint political declaration signed on 16 November 2005 and is based on shared priorities such as the establishment of strong and accountable institutions, security and justice sector reform, counter-narcotics, development and reconstruction.

► **A presence in Afghanistan**

The EU has had a Special Representative (EUSR) in Afghanistan since December 2001 (currently Francesc Vendrell since 2002). The EUSR is in close contact with key stakeholders in the Afghan political process and with international partners and advises the EU on its Afghanistan policy and on the implementation of its priorities for action.

The European Commission has an office in Kabul since May 2002, notably to implement aid delivery. The European Commission Humanitarian Office ECHO is also present in Afghanistan. Its office in Kabul opened in January 2002.

A key partner in the reconstruction and stabilisation effort

Working with international partners, the EU is making a major contribution to Afghanistan's reconstruction and stabilisation. The EU has spent about EUR 3.1 billion for reconstruction and development.

In agreement with the Afghan government and the donor community, EU member states and the European Commission have taken key co-ordination roles in crucial areas of assistance, including in security-related areas (the UK is key partner for counter-narcotics; Italy for judicial reform and training; Germany for police training). The European Commission is key partner for rural livelihoods (jointly with the World Bank) and health (jointly with the US). France has a co-ordination role with respect to the establishment of the Afghan parliament.

► **Reconstruction aid:**

The reconstruction program managed by the European Commission is on track to meet the EC's pledge of EUR 1 billion in reconstruction funding over the 2002-2006 period. It includes the key areas of **rural development, alternative livelihoods and food security** (EUR 236 million); **economic infrastructure** (EUR 106 million) – including reconstruction of the Kabul to Jalalabad road; **public sector reform**, including capacity building within government institutions and budget support via trust funds (EUR 393 million); the **health sector** – extending provision of a basic healthcare package (EUR 94 million); **de-mining** (EUR 66 million); **human rights and civil society**, including support for the media and social protection for the most vulnerable (EUR 21 million); promotion of **regional cooperation**, including on refugees and specific support to help smooth **refugee returns** (EUR 53 million).

► **Security:**

23 EU member states are deploying troops to ISAF. Following stage 4 of the geographic expansion phase to the South (October 2006), their **combined contribution to ISAF is approx. 15,800 troops**.

EU member-state deployments to ISAF started in December 2001 and have increased steadily over time, from about 3,000 in 2002 to about 5,000 in 2003, 6,000 in 2004 and 10,000

in the second half of 2005 (including additional temporary deployments in conjunction with the elections). Several Member States have been expanding personnel and assets in 2006 and/or are planning to do so in 2007.

Separately, several member states are also contributing to the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom coalition conducting counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan.

ISAF is currently led by the United Kingdom. Regional Commands are led by the UK (Capital), Italy (West), Germany (North), with the two remaining Regional Commands led by Canada and the US.

► **Rule of law:**

Since 2002, the Community and a number of EU member states have been actively involved in the rule of law sector. Germany plays the role of key partner for the reconstruction of the Afghan Police. It has spent about EUR 70 million on police reform. So far it has trained 4,300 Afghan policemen in long term courses and 14,000 in short term courses. Italy is the key partner on justice sector reform on which it has spent some EUR 40 million.

Providing EUR 135 million in 2003-2006, the European Community is the largest contributor to the police trust fund LOTFA, which pays for salaries. The rule of law is critical for the success of counter-narcotics and other efforts.

► **Counter-narcotics**

The EU has from the outset of the reconstruction process taken an active role in supporting counter-narcotics efforts, not least because 90% of heroin in Western Europe originates in Afghanistan, but also because the growth in corruption and illegality associated with the burgeoning opium economy poses a grave threat to the success of the entire reconstruction and stabilisation process.

The UK is the designated key partner for counter-narcotics. It assisted the Afghan government in drawing up the National Drugs Control Strategy in 2005. A counter-narcotics police, mobile detection units and a central eradication planning cell have been established.

The UK, the EC and several EU member states are also actively involved in the field of rural development which is critical for the provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods for farmers involved in opium-poppy cultivation.

An important provider of humanitarian aid

In addition to its leading role in the reconstruction effort, the EU is a major source of humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the Afghan crisis both in Afghanistan and in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

EU member states and the European Community are also actively involved in the provision of emergency and relief assistance. Total EU contributions for 2002-2006 amounted to **EUR 627.5 million**.

(...)

External Relations Council

Brussels, 5 March 2007

(...)

SUDAN/DARFUR – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council remains deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration of the security situation and the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, as a consequence of the increasing violence by all parties to the conflict. The Council is particularly alarmed by Sudanese Armed Forces bombing near the Chadian border on 11 February, and militia attacks in North Darfur on 13 February resulting in 20 civilian deaths. It firmly condemns the continuing attacks on humanitarian aid workers, harassment targeting relief activities and ceasefire violations. It reminds all parties of their obligation to respect humanitarian law and of their responsibility to end any obstruction of humanitarian work. The Council recalls the obligation of the Sudanese authorities to facilitate the operations of UN agencies and non-governmental organisations, removing all obstacles to their work.

In this context, the Council urges all parties to respect their ceasefire commitments and is ready to implement measures taken by the UN Security Council in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005). Recalling that Resolution 1591 determines that those impeding the peace process shall be held responsible and appropriate measures shall be taken accordingly, the Council underlines its support for urgent consideration by the Security Council of further measures.

2. The Council expresses its continued concern at the human rights situation in Darfur. In this context, it deeply deplores the Sudanese government's attitude of non-cooperation with the UN Human Rights Council High-Level Assessment Mission to Darfur, preventing the Mission from doing its work in Sudan. It recalls that the Mission was established by consensus by the Human Rights Council in full consultation with Sudan. The Council expects that the conclusions of the Mission will be closely analysed by the Fourth Session of the Human Rights Council.

3. The Council takes note of the presentation by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) of evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, as a result of the investigation mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005), and welcomes it as a decisive step to put an end to impunity in Darfur. Reaffirming its support for the ICC, the Council expects the Sudanese Government to cooperate fully with the Court.

4. Emphasising the urgent need for an inclusive political agreement to solve the conflict in Darfur, the Council welcomes the recent talks held in Sudan by the AU and UN Special Envoys. The Council underlines the urgent need for a renewed ceasefire to be fully respected and a revitalised political track to be pursued, to allow for an early start of negotiations under the auspices of the AU and the UN. The Council has followed with interest the recent talks in Tripoli organised by the Libyan and Eritrean governments, and emphasises that all actors engaged in mediating between the Sudanese government and the non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement should cooperate closely with the Special Envoys of the AU and the UN.

5. The Council recalls the final report of the AU-UN consultations on the UN Heavy Support Package for AMIS and expects the Government to rapidly give its unequivocal consent to the deployment of the Heavy Support Package in its entirety, in line with previously made commitments, and to collaborate actively with the AU and the UN to ensure its speedy implementation. Similarly, the Council encourages the AU and the UN to conclude the preparations for the deployment of the agreed AU-UN hybrid operation as soon as possible. The Council reiterates its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs its implementation.

6. The Council acknowledges the need to urgently address the funding needs of AMIS. It urges other international partners to contribute to the success of the mission and appeals to them to fulfil already made pledges and to provide additional contributions. It recalls that the EU has already committed around EUR 400 million for AMIS through the African Peace Facility (APF) and bilateral contributions by Member States. The EU reconfirms its commitment to further contribute to AMIS in the period leading up to the deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force. With a view to make possible further financial support for AMIS and in consideration of the request from the AU Commission, pending a decision by the ACP group of states, the Council expresses its readiness to replenish the APF from resources of the 9th European Development Fund. The Council also welcomes the willingness expressed by EU Member States to make additional voluntary contributions in the context of a joint effort by the EU and its Member States.

7. The Council expresses its deep concern about continued reports of deterioration in the security situation in Southern Sudan. The Council renews its call on the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to intensify efforts to implement the agreement in full and to refrain from violence.

8. The Council remains concerned about the instability on the Sudanese-Chadian border, its impact on the humanitarian situation of the population in Chad and Darfur, and the destabilising impact of the conflict in the whole of the region. The Council therefore welcomes the declaration signed by the Presidents of Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic on 15 February 2007 at the 24th Summit Conference of Heads of State of Africa and of France, at the initiative of the President of the French Republic and under the chairmanship of the President of the AU, reconfirming the commitments under the 2006 Tripoli agreement, and urges the signatories to honour their commitments, in particular to refrain from supporting armed movements in neighbouring countries. The Council takes note of the consultations held by the Security Council on 27 February to address the instability along the border between Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and welcomes the engagement of the UN for the stability of the region as demonstrated by the readiness of the UN Secretary-General to set up an advance mission in Chad and in the Central African Republic.⁹

*
* *

A number of delegations announced further bilateral contributions towards AMIS.

UZBEKISTAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. Recalling the Council Conclusions of 3 October 2005, 15 May and 13 November 2006, the Council has discussed developments in Uzbekistan and prospects for future relations between the EU and Uzbekistan.
2. While remaining seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan, the EU reiterates its readiness to engage in a comprehensive dialogue with Uzbekistan, in particular on human rights.
3. The Council recalls that a first round of experts' talks on the Andijan events took place in Tashkent from 12 – 14 December 2006. It acknowledges the Uzbek readiness to hold a further round of these talks and looks forward to concrete results.
4. The Council stresses the need for an early, meaningful and regular human rights dialogue between the EU and Uzbekistan in the framework of a sub-committee on Justice, Home Affairs, Human Rights and related issues under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.
5. The Council recalls its common position of 13 November 2006, lifting restrictions on technical meetings, extending the arms embargo for another 12 months and the visa restrictions for another 6 months. The Council decided to review these measures in May on the basis of the criteria set out in previous Council Conclusions, taking into account the actions of the Uzbek government in the area of human rights, including those following the outcome of the meetings mentioned above. The Council urges Uzbekistan to implement fully its international obligations relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms.'

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed the situation in the Western Balkans. It was noted that Ministers would have the opportunity to discuss Serbia and Kosovo at their dinner on 8 March (European Council) and at their informal meeting in Bremen on 30-31 March. The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1. The Council welcomed the formation of the new Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It encouraged the new authorities to ensure a swift and effective implementation of all the four conditions necessary for the conclusion of negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement as set out in the Council conclusions of 12 December 2005. The Council reiterated its full support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European perspective.
2. The Council urged the new authorities to use the current momentum to bring forward police reform.
3. The Council took note of the PIC Steering Board assessment of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region. The Council also took note of the PIC Steering Board Communiqué which aims for closure of the Office of the High Representative by 30 June 2008 with reviews of the situation in October 2007 and February 2008. The policy of ownership remains the guiding principle.
4. The Council took note that the Political and Security Committee has approved the revised

OPLAN for Operation ALTHEA, enabling a progressive but reversible reconfiguration of EUFOR to go ahead, taking into account the security situation in the country as well as the impact on that, of the regional security situation. As part of its overall engagement in BiH, the EU will retain a military presence in the country in order to continue contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment. EUFOR will retain some 2 500 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserve forces, ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country and to provide reassurance. Cooperation with NATO in respect of Operation ALTHEA will continue.’

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

Ministers, over lunch, discussed the Middle East peace process in the light of recent events, including trilateral contacts between Secretary Rice, President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert, the Quartet principals’ meeting in Berlin on 21 February and the visit of President Abbas to a number of European capitals. They also discussed the state of play regarding the formation of a Palestinian government of national unity following the meeting in Mecca on 8 February. Ministers were briefed by HR Solana on recent contacts and by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner on her visit to the region.

Ministers looked forward to further activity by the Quartet, including in cooperation with Arab partners, to keep up the recent momentum.

The meeting of the EU Troika with Israeli Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni in the margins of the Council was a further opportunity to discuss prospects regarding the peace process.

Ministers briefly discussed the situation in Lebanon, to which they will return on the occasion of their working dinner on 8 March in the margins of the European Council.

IRAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council took note of the report by the Director General of the IAEA to the United Nations Security Council of 22 February 2007 and deplored the fact that Iran has not complied with the terms of UNSC Resolution 1737, as confirmed in that report. The Council noted in particular that Iran has failed to suspend all enrichment and enrichment-related activities and appears determined to pursue these activities on an even larger scale.

In the view of the Council the report clearly demonstrates Iran’s disregard of the requirements of the international community expressed in the unanimous and legally binding UNSC Resolution 1737.

The Council reasserts its support for the UNSC process and underlines that the UNSC has expressed its intention in Resolution 1737 to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter should Iran fail to comply. The Council urges the international community to act with the necessary firmness in support of this process.

The Council reaffirmed at the same time its continuing support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The Council seizes this opportunity to call once more upon Iran to open the way for negotiations by complying with the requirements as set out in Resolution 1737.’

(...)

European Council

Brussels, 8-9 March 2007

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

(...)

III. An integrated climate and energy policy

27. The challenges of climate change need to be tackled effectively and urgently. Recent studies on this subject have contributed to a growing awareness and knowledge of the long-term consequences, including the consequences for global economic development, and have stressed the need for decisive and immediate action. The European Council underlines the vital importance of achieving the strategic objective of limiting the global average temperature increase to not more than 2 °C above pre-industrial levels.

28. Given that energy production and use are the main sources for greenhouse gas emissions, an integrated approach to climate and energy policy is needed to realise this objective. Integration should be achieved in a mutually supportive way. With this in mind, the Energy Policy for Europe (EPE) will pursue the following three objectives, fully respecting Member States' choice of energy mix and sovereignty over primary energy sources and underpinned by a spirit of solidarity amongst Member States:

- I increasing security of supply;
- I ensuring the competitiveness of European economies and the availability of affordable energy;
- I promoting environmental sustainability and combating climate change.

Climate protection

29. The European Council underlines the leading role of the EU in international climate protection. It stresses that international collective action will be critical in driving an effective, efficient and equitable response on the scale required to face climate change challenges. To this end negotiations on a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement, which should build upon and broaden the Kyoto Protocol architecture and provide a fair and flexible framework for the widest possible participation, need to be launched at the UN international climate conference beginning at the end of 2007 and completed by 2009. In this connection, the European Council endorses the elements identified by the Council (Environment) of 20 February 2007 as essential parts of an effective and appropriate framework beyond 2012, which would include *inter alia* the development of a shared vision to reach the ultimate objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the strengthening and extension of global carbon markets, the development, deployment and transfer of the necessary technology to reduce emissions, appropriate adaptation measures to deal with the effects of climate change, action on deforestation and addressing emissions from international aviation and maritime transportation. All countries should be invited to contribute to the efforts under this framework according to their differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

30. The European Council reaffirms that absolute emission reduction commitments are the

backbone of a global carbon market. Developed countries should continue to take the lead by committing to collectively reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases in the order of 30% by 2020 compared to 1990. They should do so also with a view to collectively reducing their emissions by 60% to 80% by 2050 compared to 1990.

31. In this context, the European Council endorses an EU objective of a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 as its contribution to a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and economically more advanced developing countries to contributing adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. It invites these countries to come forward with proposals for their contributions to the post-2012 agreement.

32. The European Council emphasises that the EU is committed to transforming Europe into a highly energy-efficient and low greenhouse-gas-emitting economy and decides that, until a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement is concluded, and without prejudice to its position in international negotiations, the EU makes a firm independent commitment to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990.

33. The European Council decides that a differentiated approach to the contributions of the Member States is needed reflecting fairness and transparency as well as taking into account national circumstances and the relevant base years for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. It recognises that the implementation of these targets will be based on Community policies and on an agreed internal burden-sharing and invites the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States, immediately to start a technical analysis of criteria, including socio-economic parameters and other relevant and comparable parameters, to form the basis for further in-depth discussion. Given the great importance of the energy intensive sector, the European Council emphasises that cost-efficient measures are needed to improve both the competitiveness and the environmental impact of such European industries.

34. The European Council notes the increasing share of greenhouse gas emissions from developing countries and the need for these countries to address the increase in these emissions by reducing the emission intensity of their economic development, in line with the general principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The European Council stands ready to continue and further strengthen its support for developing countries in lessening their vulnerability and adapting to climate change.

35. Given the central role of emission trading in the EU's long-term strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the European Council invites the Commission to review the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in good time with a view to increasing transparency and strengthening and broadening the scope of the scheme and to consider, as part of the EU ETS review, a possible extension of its scope to land use, land-use change and forestry and surface transport.

The European Council stresses the necessity of an efficient, safe and sustainable European transport policy. In this context, it is important to proceed with actions to increase the environmental performance of the European transport system. The European Council notes the European Commission's ongoing work regarding the assessment of external costs for transport and their internalisation.

Energy Policy

36. Global warming, together with the need to ensure security of supply and enhance business competitiveness, make it ever more vital and pressing for the EU to put in place an integrated policy on energy combining action at the European and the Member States' level. As a milestone in the creation of an Energy Policy for Europe (EPE) and a spring board for further action, the European Council adopts a comprehensive energy Action Plan for the period 2007-2009 (Annex I), based on the Commission's Communication 'An Energy Policy for Europe'. The European Council notes that Member States' choice of energy mix may have effects on the energy situation in other Member States and on the Union's ability to achieve the three objectives of the EPE.

37. The Action Plan sets out the way in which significant progress in the efficient operation and completion of the EU's internal market for gas and electricity and a more interconnected and integrated market can be achieved. It envisages the nomination of EU coordinators for four priority projects of European interest. It also addresses the crucial issue of security of energy supply and the response to potential crises. As regards security of supply the European Council stresses the importance of making full use of the instruments available to improve the EU's bilateral cooperation with all suppliers and ensure reliable energy flows into the Union. It develops clear orientations for an effective European international energy policy speaking with a common voice. It fixes highly ambitious quantified targets on energy efficiency, renewable energies and the use of biofuels and calls for a European Strategic Energy Technology plan, including environmentally safe Carbon Capture and Sequestration, to be examined at the Spring 2008 European Council meeting.

38. The European Council calls on all parties concerned to press ahead rapidly and with determination in order to implement all of the elements contained in the Action Plan in line with its provisions and conditions. In particular, it invites the Commission to submit the proposals requested in the Action Plan as speedily as possible.

Follow-up

39. In the light of the integrated approach to climate and energy policy the Energy Action Plan will be kept under regular review within the context of an annual examination by the European Council of the progress made and results achieved in implementing the EU's energy and climate change policies. The Commission is invited to put forward an updated Strategic Energy Review in early 2009, which will serve as the basis for the new Energy Action Plan from 2010 onwards to be adopted by the Spring 2010 European Council.

IV. International relations

40. The European Council reaffirms the strategic importance of the EU-Africa Summit to be held in the second half of 2007. It expresses its gratitude to the incoming Portuguese Presidency for its readiness to host this Summit in Lisbon in December 2007.

41. The European Council welcomed the fact that an agreement has been reached in Mecca on 8 February on the formation of a Palestinian national unity government. It expresses its appreciation for the role of Saudi Arabia and Arab leaders in bringing about Palestinian reconcilia-

tion. The EU stands ready to work with a legitimate Palestinian government that adopts a platform reflecting the Quartet principles. It encourages the Quartet to continue its active contribution to the Middle East Peace Process.

42. The European Council recalls its determination to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. It reaffirms its call for the full and speedy implementation of resolution 1701 and all other relevant resolutions of the Security Council. It reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in accordance with resolution 1664 of the Security Council, and urges all members of the international community to lend their support. It commends all constructive international mediation efforts, in particular those of the SG of the Arab League and Saudi Arabia, aiming at a solution to the current political crisis in the country. It underlines the necessity of implementing the commitments entered into at the 'Paris III' international conference.

ANNEX I

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN (2007-2009) ENERGY POLICY FOR EUROPE (EPE)

The Action Plan comprises the following priority actions, some of which may contribute to more than one of the three objectives of the EPE. New measures should take into account the better regulation principles, notably as regards impact assessments.

I. Internal Market for Gas and Electricity

1. Taking note of the Commission's internal market report and the final report following the sector inquiry on the gas and electricity markets, with the aim of increasing competition, ensuring effective regulation and encouraging investment to benefit consumers, the European Council:

- ▶ reaffirms that to achieve this aim the first step, to which it is committed, is to ensure timely and full implementation of the letter and spirit of existing Internal Market legislation relating to the opening up of the gas and electricity markets, since a truly competitive, interconnected and single Europe-wide internal energy market that will have major benefits for competitiveness and EU consumers as well as increasing security of supply has not yet been achieved;
- ▶ notes the interaction between investment decisions and the development of the regulatory framework, and is therefore of the opinion that future measures affecting the internal market have to be designed and implemented in a way that provides a positive framework for much-needed investment;
- ▶ taking account of the characteristics of the gas and electricity sectors and of national and regional markets, agrees on the need for:
 - ┆ effective separation of supply and production activities from network operations (unbundling), based on independently run and adequately regulated network operation systems which guarantee equal and open access to transport infrastructures and independence of decisions on investment in infrastructure;
 - ┆ further harmonisation of the powers and strengthening of the independence of national energy regulators;

- | the establishment of an independent mechanism for national regulators to cooperate and take decisions on important cross-border issues;
- | the creation of a new Community mechanism for Transmission System Operators to improve coordination of network operation and grid security building on existing cooperation practices;
- | a more efficient and integrated system for cross-border electricity trade and grid operation, including elaboration of technical standards;
- | the enhancement of competition and security of supply through facilitated integration of new power plants into the electricity grid in all Member States, in particular encouraging new market entrants;
- | relevant investment signals contributing to the efficient and more secure operation of the transmission grid;
- | increased transparency in energy market operations;
- | better consumer protection, e.g. through the development of an Energy Customers' Charter.

Moreover, the European Council invites the Commission:

- | to provide additional clarifications related to the key measures envisaged and their impacts in time for the June Council (Energy);
- | to elaborate together with Member States the medium- and long-term forecasts for gas and electricity supply and demand, and to identify the additional investment required to satisfy EU strategic needs;
- | to assess the impact of vertically integrated energy companies from third countries on the internal market and how to implement the principle of reciprocity;
- | to assess access to gas storage in the EU.

The European Council invites the Commission to come forward with relevant proposals, including through the development of existing legislation where possible.

2. Reaffirming the need for improved regional cross-border exchange and accelerating the development of regional energy cooperation while addressing the challenges of peripheral energy markets and facilitating the integration of regional ones into the EU internal market and its further development, notably through interconnection, taking into account the integration of on- and off-shore renewable energies, the European Council:

- welcomes, as a first step, the Commission's intention to appoint where necessary, in accordance with Article 10 of Decision 1364/2006/EC, European coordinators to accelerate the most critical priority projects of European interest¹; it notes, however, that new projects are needed in order to achieve adequate interconnection in particular of isolated energy markets and asks the Member States concerned to achieve at least 10% of electricity and gas interconnection capacity by 2010. To this end, Member States concerned should reinforce their bilateral cooperation, for instance by elaborating appropriate guidelines;
- invites the Commission to table proposals aiming at streamlining approval procedures.

1. Priority projects of European interest are listed in Decision 1364/2006/EC of the EP and of the Council. Regarding coordinators and without prejudice to further appointments, the Council notes that in its Communication, the Commission envisages the following projects: the Power-Link between Germany, Poland and Lithuania; connections to offshore wind power in Northern Europe; electricity interconnections between France and Spain; and the Nabucco pipeline, bringing gas from the Caspian to central Europe.

II. Security of Supply

3. In order to contribute to security of supply in a spirit of solidarity between Member States, notably in the event of an energy supply crisis, the European Council:

- ▶ underlines the need to enhance security of supply for the EU as a whole as well as for each Member State through:
 - | effective diversification of energy sources and transport routes, which will also contribute to a more competitive internal energy market;
 - | developing more effective crisis response mechanisms, on the basis of mutual co-operation and building notably on existing mechanisms, considering a wide range of options after careful assessment of existing means, taking into account the primary responsibility of Member States regarding their domestic demand, and making appropriate use of the warning capacity provided by the network of energy security correspondents;
 - | improving oil data transparency and reviewing EU oil supply infrastructures and oil stocks mechanisms, complementary to the IEA crisis mechanism, especially with respect to availability in the event of a crisis;
 - | a thorough analysis of the availability and costs of gas storage facilities in the EU;
 - | an assessment of the impact of current and potential energy imports and the conditions of related networks on each Member State's security of supply;
 - | establishing an Energy Observatory within the Commission.

III. International Energy Policy

4. The development of a common approach to external energy policy has to be speeded up, involving consumer-to-producer as well as consumer-to-consumer and consumer-to-transit countries, dialogues and partnerships including through organisations such as OPEC. To that effect, the European Council emphasises the following as essential elements when further developing the common voice of the EU in support of the three energy policy objectives:

- | negotiating and finalising a post-partnership and cooperation agreement with Russia in particular relating to energy issues¹;
- | intensifying the EU relationship with Central Asia, the Caspian and the Black Sea regions, with a view to further diversifying sources and routes;
- | strengthening partnership and cooperation building on the bilateral energy dialogues with the USA as well as with China, India, Brazil and other emerging economies, focusing on the reduction of GHG, energy efficiency, renewables and low-emission energy technologies, notably CCS;
- | ensuring the implementation of the Energy Community Treaty, with a view to its further development and possible extension to Norway, Turkey, Ukraine and Moldova;
- | making full use of the instruments available under the European Neighbourhood Policy;
- | enhancing energy relationships with Algeria, Egypt and other producing countries in the Mashreq/Maghreb region²;
- | building a special dialogue with African countries on energy and using Community instruments to enhance in particular decentralised renewable energies and generally

1. This formulation is without prejudice to on-going discussions on the negotiating mandate for the post-PCA agreement.

2. Bearing in mind the GAERC conclusions of 22 January 2007 (doc. 5463/07).

energy accessibility and sustainability in this region, as well as energy infrastructure of common interest;

- I promoting access to energy in the context of the UN-CSD.

IV. Energy efficiency and renewable energies

5. The European Council is aware of the growing demand for energy and increasing energy prices as well as of the benefits of strong and early common international action on climate change, is confident that a substantive development of energy efficiency and of renewable energies will enhance energy security, curb the projected rise in energy prices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the EU's ambitions for the period beyond 2012, and underlines that the energy savings objective and targets for renewables and biofuels referred to below should be achieved with a view to sharing efforts and benefits fairly and equitably among all Member States, taking into account different national circumstances, starting points and potentials.

6. In that light, the European Council:

- ▶ stresses the need to increase energy efficiency in the EU so as to achieve the objective of saving 20% of the EU's energy consumption compared to projections for 2020, as estimated by the Commission in its Green Paper on Energy Efficiency, and to make good use of their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans for this purpose;
- ▶ calls for a thorough and rapid implementation of the ambitious five main priorities as highlighted in the Council conclusions of 23 November 2006¹ on the Commission's Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, relating to energy-efficient transport, dynamic minimum efficiency requirements for energy-using equipment, energy-efficient and energy-saving behaviour of energy consumers, energy technology and innovations and the energy savings from buildings;
- ▶ invites the Commission to rapidly submit proposals to enable increased energy efficiency requirements on office and street lighting to be adopted by 2008 and on incandescent lamps and other forms of lighting in private households by 2009;
- ▶ welcomes the Commission's intention to put forward in 2007 a proposal for a new international agreement on energy efficiency in order to develop common global efforts towards promoting energy efficiency, bearing in mind that such an agreement should be complementary to EU energy efficiency policy;
- ▶ supports the use of international negotiations to encourage sustainable methods of production and to promote international trade in environmental and energy-efficient goods and services;
- ▶ calls for an early review of the Community guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and other relevant Community instruments which can provide incentives, with the aim of making them more supportive of the Community's energy and climate change objectives.

7. The European Council reaffirms the Community's long-term commitment to the EU-wide development of renewable energies beyond 2010, underlines that all types of renewable energies, when used in a cost-efficient way, contribute simultaneously to security of supply, competitiveness and sustainability, and is convinced of the paramount importance of giving a

1. Doc. 15210/06.

clear signal to industry, investors, innovators and researchers. For these reasons, taking into consideration different individual circumstances, starting points and potentials, it endorses the following targets:

- ▶ a binding target of a 20% share of renewable energies in overall EU energy consumption by 2020;
- ▶ a 10% binding minimum target to be achieved by all Member States for the share of biofuels in overall EU transport petrol and diesel consumption by 2020, to be introduced in a cost-efficient way. The binding character of this target is appropriate subject to production being sustainable, second-generation biofuels becoming commercially available and the Fuel Quality Directive being amended accordingly to allow for adequate levels of blending.

From the overall renewables target, differentiated national overall targets should be derived with Member States' full involvement with due regard to a fair and adequate allocation taking account of different national starting points and potentials, including the existing level of renewable energies and energy mix (cf. paragraphs 10 and 11), and, subject to meeting the minimum biofuels target in each Member State, leaving it to Member States to decide on national targets for each specific sector of renewable energies (electricity, heating and cooling, biofuels).

In order to meet these targets, the European Council:

- ▶ calls for an overall coherent framework for renewable energies which could be established on the basis of a Commission proposal in 2007 for a new comprehensive directive on the use of all renewable energy resources. This proposal should be in line with other Community legislation and could contain provisions as regards:
 - | Member States' overall national targets;
 - | National Action Plans containing sectoral targets and measures to meet them; and
 - | criteria and provisions to ensure sustainable production and use of bioenergy and to avoid conflicts between different uses of biomass.
- ▶ calls for a thorough and rapid implementation of the measures highlighted in the June 2006 Council conclusions¹ on the Commission Biomass Action Plan, notably as regards demonstration projects for second-generation biofuels;
- ▶ invites the Commission to analyse the potential of cross-border and EU-wide synergies and of interconnections for reaching the overall renewable energy target, thereby also addressing the situation of countries and regions largely isolated from the EU energy market;
- ▶ invites the Commission to work with Member States to develop renewable energies, for example through an expanded Forum on renewable energies and to promote the exchange of best practice.

8. The European Council underlines the central role that emissions trading must play in the EU's long-term goals to reduce GHG emissions, and stresses the importance of the review by the Commission of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in delivering an improved EU ETS that provides a market-based, cost-effective means to deliver emissions reductions at minimum cost - including as regards energy-intensive industries - and to make a major contribution to the EU's overall targets.

1. Doc. 9669/06.

V. Energy Technologies

9. Recognizing the need to strengthen energy research in particular to accelerate the competitiveness of sustainable energies, notably renewables, and low carbon technologies and the further development of energy efficiency technologies, the European Council welcomes the Commission's intention to table a European Strategic Energy Technology Plan during 2007 for consideration at the latest by the 2008 Spring European Council.

10. Aware of the huge possible global benefits of a sustainable use of fossil fuels, the European Council:

- underlines the importance of substantial improvements in generation efficiency and clean fossil fuel technologies;
- urges Member States and the Commission to work towards strengthening R & D and developing the necessary technical, economic and regulatory framework to bring environmentally safe carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) to deployment with new fossil-fuel power plants, if possible by 2020;
- welcomes the Commission's intention to establish a mechanism to stimulate the construction and operation by 2015 of up to 12 demonstration plants of sustainable fossil fuel technologies in commercial power generation.

11. Recalling that the EPE will fully respect Member States' choice of energy mix, the European Council:

- notes the Commission's assessment of the contribution of nuclear energy in meeting the growing concerns about safety of energy supply and CO₂ emissions reductions while ensuring that nuclear safety and security are paramount in the decision-making process;
- confirms that it is for each and every Member State to decide whether or not to rely on nuclear energy and stresses that this has to be done while further improving nuclear safety and the management of radioactive waste, and to that effect it:
 - | supports R & D on waste management, particularly under the 7th Framework Research Programme;
 - | can envisage the creation of a high-level group on nuclear safety and waste management.
- suggests that broad discussion takes place among all relevant stakeholders on the opportunities and risks of nuclear energy.

Fiftieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome

Berlin, 25 March 2007

During the ceremony commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaties of Rome on 25 March 2007, the Federal Chancellor, Angela Merkel, in her role as President of the European Council, the President of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pottering, and the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, signed the Berlin Declaration. This document pays tribute to the progress achieved by the European Union over the last half-century. It also endorses the fundamental values that unite people within the EU and alludes to the main tasks that the Union must accomplish.

DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE TREATIES OF ROME

For centuries Europe has been an idea, holding out hope of peace and understanding. That hope has been fulfilled. European unification has made peace and prosperity possible. It has brought about a sense of community and overcome differences. Each Member State has helped to unite Europe and to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. Thanks to the yearning for freedom of the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe the unnatural division of Europe is now consigned to the past. European integration shows that we have learnt the painful lessons of a history marked by bloody conflict. Today we live together as was never possible before.

We, the citizens of the European Union, have united for the better.

I.

In the European Union, we are turning our common ideals into reality: for us, the individual is paramount. His dignity is inviolable. His rights are inalienable. Women and men enjoy equal rights.

We are striving for peace and freedom, for democracy and the rule of law, for mutual respect and shared responsibility, for prosperity and security, for tolerance and participation, for justice and solidarity.

We have a unique way of living and working together in the European Union. This is expressed through the democratic interaction of the Member States and the European institutions. The European Union is founded on equal rights and mutually supportive cooperation. This enables us to strike a fair balance between Member States' interests.

We preserve in the European Union the identities and diverse traditions of its Member States. We are enriched by open borders and a lively variety of languages, cultures and regions. There are many goals which we cannot achieve on our own, but only in concert. Tasks are shared between the European Union, the Member States and their regions and local authorities.

II.

We are facing major challenges which do not stop at national borders. The European Union is our response to these challenges. Only together can we continue to preserve our ideal of European society in future for the good of all European Union citizens. This European model combines economic success and social responsibility. The common market and the euro make us strong. We can thus shape the increasing interdependence of the global economy and ever-

growing competition on international markets according to our values. Europe's wealth lies in the knowledge and ability of its people; that is the key to growth, employment and social cohesion.

We will fight terrorism, organised crime and illegal immigration together. We stand up for liberties and civil rights also in the struggle against those who oppose them. Racism and xenophobia must never again be given any rein.

We are committed to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the world and to ensuring that people do not become victims of war, terrorism and violence. The European Union wants to promote freedom and development in the world. We want to drive back poverty, hunger and disease. We want to continue to take a leading role in that fight.

We intend jointly to lead the way in energy policy and climate protection and make our contribution to averting the global threat of climate change.

III.

The European Union will continue to thrive both on openness and on the will of its Member States to consolidate the Union's internal development. The European Union will continue to promote democracy, stability and prosperity beyond its borders.

With European unification a dream of earlier generations has become a reality. Our history reminds us that we must protect this for the good of future generations. For that reason we must always renew the political shape of Europe in keeping with the times. That is why today, 50 years after the signing of the Treaties of Rome, we are united in our aim of placing the European Union on a renewed common basis before the European Parliament elections in 2009.

For we know, Europe is our common future.

JAVIER SOLANA – 50 YEARS OF FOSTERING PEACE

Today, the European Union (EU) celebrates the 50th anniversary of European integration, which began on March 25, 1957, with the founding of the European Economic Community (EEC) established in the Treaty of Rome.

Fifty years ago, the six founding countries of the European Community signed the Treaty of Rome. The ostensible aim of this treaty was to promote economic cooperation among the signatory states.

However, all participants were conscious that the real objective was political: to ensure that the continent of Europe would never again be engulfed in violent conflict. Few at the time could have foreseen the success of the project. Equally few would have dreamed how the original economic basis would be extended over the years to cover a huge range of issues including foreign and security policy, migration, asylum and police cooperation. Nor would they have imagined that the original Community of six would be transformed into a Union of 27 member states, embracing countries that suffered at the hands of totalitarian rule.

Today the European project continues to guarantee peace, security and prosperity across the continent. We have good reason to celebrate this remarkable achievement. One of the main strengths of the European Union is that it is founded on the rule of law.

Relations between its members no longer depend on ad-hoc agreements or levels of trust among individuals, which history shows can be fickle and arbitrary.

Rather, the Union is a robust, rules-based system, democratically accountable and enforceable by the European Court of Justice.

It is this solid foundation that has made the European Union a pole of stability, a unique organization held globally in high regard, and valued as an honest broker. This has led it to assume new responsibilities in the area of conflict resolution and peacekeeping. In particular, the rapid progress in the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) has been remarkable, even revolutionary.

From the Western Balkans to Africa through West Asia to South-East Asia and beyond, the European Union has been actively deploying missions, which have helped save lives, protect the vulnerable and bring greater stability.

These missions cover the spectrum from ‘pure’ military operations – through security sector reform and institution-building – to police and rule-of-law missions. And their impact is significant.

The EU has been most successful in its missions when working with other partners such as the United Nations, Nato and, as in the case of Aceh, Indonesia, with five contributing countries from another regional organisation, Asean.

The Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) is a concrete and successful example of action-oriented and comprehensive political and security cooperation between two regional organisations. This joint venture blended the civilian crisis management experience, political weight and available financial resources of the European Union with the regional ownership, local credibility and knowledge of the participating Asean countries.

The Malaysian contribution to the mission was significant and instrumental to its success, including through the provision of a two-star general as Principal Deputy Head of Mission.

The AMM has opened the ground for possible further EU-Asean cooperation in the field of

joint crisis management and led to an unprecedented quality of cooperation, extending it beyond the existing range of political dialogue (in the framework of EU-Asean Ministerial Meetings and the Asean Regional Forum) and technical cooperation.

The mission has thereby furthered the EU objectives of fostering integration and increasing political and economic links with Malaysia and other Asean partners. Only 10 days ago, at the 16th EU-Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nuremberg, both regional blocks agreed to further enhance their ties and cooperation.

As they jointly represent more than a billion people, it is only natural that global issues of common concern such as climate change, energy security, or organised crime were on the agenda. Our intention to accede to Asean's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation was warmly welcomed by Asean.

I believe this development is another reflection of the fact that the European Union is now a global political player involved in efforts to solve the crises of today: from Iran to Kosovo to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

There is a demand for greater European engagement around the world. Similarly, our own citizens insist that Europe should play a prominent role. It is in our shared interest to ensure that this call for engagement and action is heeded.

We started off as a peace project, and in many ways that is still what we are today: from building peace in Europe to peacebuilder around the world.

It is with Europe's accomplishments at the back of my mind that I closely follow the efforts towards adopting an Asean Charter, in which Malaysia continues to play such a crucial role.

On this anniversary of the EU and that of Malaysia, let us together celebrate the past 50 years and look forward with confidence and hope to the future.

Star online

EUSEC RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 27 March 2007

In 2005, following an official request by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) government, the EU decided to establish an EU advisory and assistance mission for security reform in the DRC (EUSEC-DRC). The mission provides advice and assistance to the Congolese authorities in charge of security while ensuring the promotion of policies that are compatible with human rights and international humanitarian law, democratic standards, principles of good public management, transparency and observance of the rule of law.

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/192/CFSP AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2005/355/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MISSION TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

- (1) On 2 May 2005 the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP on the European Union mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)⁽¹⁾ (EUSEC RD Congo Mission). The mandate of the mission runs until 30 June 2007.
- (2) The European Union's support for the Congolese authorities in reforming the security sector in the DRC should be reviewed in order to promote a global approach which combines the various initiatives taken by the Union, including the EUSEC RD Congo Mission. Initially, to prepare for that review, the Political and Security Committee decided to step up the action taken by the Mission, in particular in the light of the needs identified by the Head of Mission.
- (3) Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. in Article 2, the following subparagraphs shall be added: 'In addition, the Head of Mission is authorised to have recourse to financial contributions from Member States to supervise and ensure, in coordination with the Commission, the implementation of specific projects for the benefit of the authorities of the DRC, in the framework of the mission defined in Article 1. To this end, the Head of Mission shall enter into arrangements with the Member States concerned. These arrangements shall also 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 European Union or the Secretary-General/High Representative for Common

(1) OJ L 112, 3.5.2005, p. 20. Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2006/303/CFSP (OJ L 112, 26.4.2006, p. 18).

Foreign and Security Policy (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.’;

2. points (a) and (b) of Article 3 shall be replaced by the following:

- ‘(a) an office in Kinshasa, composed of the Head of Mission and staff not attached to the Congolese authorities, including:
- l a unit responsible in particular for identifying and supporting the specific projects financed or implemented by the Member States,
 - l a team responsible for contributing to the reform of the security sector conducted by the Congolese administration at inter-ministerial level;
- (b) experts assigned, *inter alia*, to the following key posts within the Congolese administration:
- l the private office of the Minister for Defence,
 - l the combined general staff,
 - l the army general staff,
 - l the naval forces general staff,
 - l the air force general staff, and
 - l provincial administrations under the Ministry of Defence.’

Article 2

The financial reference amount in Article 2 of Joint Action 2006/303/CFSP shall also cover expenditure relating to the measures referred to in Article 1(2) of this Joint Action.

Article 3

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

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels, 27 March 2007.

For the Council

The President

P. Steinbrück

Kosovo – The future EU role

Brussels, 29 March 2007

SUMMARY NOTE ON THE JOINT REPORT BY JAVIER SOLANA AND OLLI REHN ON THE STATE OF PREPARATIONS OF THE FUTURE EU AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE IN KOSOVO

(...)

Context

The paper analyses the conditions for an effective future EU role in Kosovo and provides an update on the state of transition and implementation preparations. EU coherence will be crucial during both the final stage of the status process and the implementation phase. Local ownership and partnership with the international community are key principles for the implementation of the Status settlement.

Transition Preparations

Following a settlement of Kosovo's future status, the authorities of Kosovo will face a double challenge: to take on competencies passed from UNMIK in accordance with the settlement; and to take the necessary steps to implement the substantive reforms outlined in the comprehensive proposal of the UN Special Envoy. Since October 2006, the ICO/EUSR Preparation Team has been co-chairing a structure designed to deal with questions relating to the transfer of authority from UNMIK to the Kosovo authorities following a UN Security Council Resolution.

Preparing for the International Civilian Office/EUSR and the ESDP mission

The Status settlement envisages an International Civilian Office (ICO) led by an International Civilian Representative (ICR), double-hatted as EU Special Representative (EUSR). He/she is envisaged as carrying certain powers and authorities to enable him/her to ensure adherence to the letter and spirit of the Status settlement. The ICO will include and be supported by other partners, including the United States.

The future ESDP Rule-of-Law mission will be designed to support implementation of the Kosovo status settlement and assist Kosovo's judicial and law-enforcement agencies in their progress towards sustainability and accountability.

These tasks will be carried out in full co-operation and coherence with the Commission. In accordance with the Status settlement proposal, the UN Security Council is expected to authorize the EU to establish a Rule of Law mission to support the implementation of the settlement and promote the development of the police and justice sectors in Kosovo and to decide that the mission will have executive powers in the judiciary sector (prosecution of major and organised crime, property rights, correctional services), in the police (organised crime, war crimes, inter-ethnic crimes, financial investigations, anti-corruption, border control, crowd and riot control) and in security-related and customs-compliance issues). Member states have expressed agreement with this mandate.

Kosovo's European Perspective

A tangible European perspective based on the conclusions of the EU-Western Balkans Summit in June 2003 will reinforce the EU's leverage as a partner of the local institutions and enhance Kosovo's integration in the wider region. Concrete steps should therefore be taken to enable Kosovo to make further progress within the Stabilisation and Association Process after status is settled.

This would mean adopting a Council decision on a European Partnership for Kosovo, which would spell out the priorities for action for Kosovo to move closer to the EU, taking into account the essential requirements of the Status settlement. This should be accompanied by an enhanced technical and political dialogue as well as sufficient financial assistance.

EU approximation is a two-way process. Kosovo needs to meet the same conditions as the rest of the Western Balkans. At the same time, Kosovo should feel that the EU is committed to engage in contractual relations, foster regional cooperation and provide the same opportunities already available to the rest of the region. Strengthening good neighbourly relations will help rebuild trust, foster respect of cultural and religious differences and lay the basis for the reconciliation of future generations.

The European Commission will, at the appropriate time and when the conditions are met, be ready to prepare a feasibility study to examine Kosovo's readiness to engage in contractual relations along the lines of those in the Western Balkan region. This should be conditional on Kosovo's implementation of the Status settlement and key European Partnership priorities, notably in the areas of the rule of law, the fight against corruption, good governance and public administration reform.

This will be supported inter alia by EC financial assistance; some €200 million have been allocated to Kosovo over the next three years.

Financial Needs

The International Community needs to ensure that sufficient resources are available to implement the Status settlement and support the development of a democratic, stable, and sustainable Kosovo. The EU has a particular responsibility to facilitate the conditions for a successful intervention, since it will take over the leadership of the future international presence.

Once the different costing elements are known more precisely, the Commission will prepare an overall financial package to be pledged at a donors' conference. EU Member States and our international community partners will need to contribute as well.

Following status, we can expect financing needs to arise in relation to:

1. Kosovo's share of the Yugoslav debt in the wake of status;
2. Expenditure as a result of the status requirements;
3. Kosovo's economic development needs (including institution building and capital investments);
and
4. The cost of the international presence

Division of responsibilities

The division of responsibilities between the ICO, ESDP and the Commission will be clear and mutually reinforcing. Whereas the ICO and ESDP mission will support the local authorities to ensure settlement implementation and the consolidation of the area of rule of law, the Commission's role will focus in particular on assisting the authorities to increase their capacities to govern Kosovo with a long-term European perspective.

(...)

AMIS/AMISOM EU Somalia – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 23 April 2007

The first units of the African Union (AU) mission to Somalia (AMISOM) undertaken to try and stabilise the country were deployed on 6 March 2007. On 7 March, the AU asked the European Union to provide it with experts on a temporary basis to assist the AMISOM military planning cell, located at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). The Political and Security Committee of the EU responded favourably to this request and proposed extending the EU civilian-military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan.

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2005/557/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION CIVILIAN-MILITARY SUPPORTING ACTION TO THE AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN WITH REGARD TO THE INCLUSION OF A MILITARY SUPPORT ELEMENT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE SETTING UP OF THE AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN SOMALIA (AMISOM)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

- (1) The Council on 18 July 2005 adopted Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 19 January 2007, the African Union Peace and Security Council stated its intentions to deploy for a period of six months a mission to Somalia (AMISOM), aimed essentially at contributing to the initial stabilization phase in Somalia.
- (3) On 20 February 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1744 (2007) authorizing Member States of the African Union to establish for a period of six months a mission in Somalia and urging UN Member States to provide personnel, equipment and services if required, for the successful deployment of AMISOM.
- (4) On 7 March 2007, the African Union submitted a request to the European Union for expertise to on a temporary basis assist the AMISOM military planning cell situated at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa.
- (5) On 20 March 2007, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) agreed to respond positively to the request of the African Union and to conduct the AMISOM support within the framework of the EU Supporting Action to the African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS).
- (6) By letter of 29 March 2007, the SG/HR informed the AU that EU would be ready to provide planning experts on a temporary basis and requested that EU personnel working for AMISOM be covered by the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the OAU.
- (7) Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

(1) OJ L 188, 20.7.2005, p. 46.

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. The title shall be replaced by the following:
'Council Joint Action on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union missions in the Darfur region of Sudan and in Somalia'.
2. Article 1 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 1

The European Union hereby establishes an EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS II, with an additional military support element to AMISOM, hereby named "AMIS/AMISOM EU Supporting Action".

The main objective of the EU supporting action is to ensure effective and timely EU assistance to support the AMIS II enhancement and in addition to support the setting up of AMISOM. The EU shall respect and support the principle of African ownership and the EU supporting action shall be to support the AU and its political, military and police efforts to address the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan and in Somalia. The EU supporting action shall include a civilian and military component.'

3. In articles 3(1), 4(1), 5(2), 10 and 11(1)(a) 'AMIS II' shall be replaced by 'AMIS II and AMISOM'.

4. Article 5(1) shall be replaced by the following:

'1. The SG/HR shall take all necessary measures to ensure coordination of EU activities to support AMIS II enhancement and AMISOM and the coordination between the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) and the EU Coordination Cell in Addis Ababa (ACC). The GSC shall provide guidance and support to the ACC in its duties of managing the day-to-day coordination to ensure coherent and timely EU support to AMIS II across its political, military, police and other civilian supporting actions as well as to the setting up of AMISOM. The GSC shall provide situation reports and updates and assessment of both EU support to AMIS II, the AMIS II enhancement and AMISOM to the relevant Council bodies and ensure coordination at the strategic level with other donors, in particular the UN and NATO.'

5. In Article 9, the following paragraph shall be inserted:

'1a. The military support element to the AMISOM planning shall mainly assist the strategic planning cell in the planning of the AU mission, including the drafting of the AMISOM deployment plan.'

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, 23 April 2007.

For the Council

The President

F.-W. Steinmeier

FACTSHEET – EU SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN DARFUR – AMIS

May 2007

The EU and its Member States have been providing a wide range of support to the African Union's (AU) efforts to help stabilise the situation in Darfur since January 2004. This support has included financial, personnel and political support to the Abuja talks process and the Ceasefire Commission.

It also includes support to the AU Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS) through the provision of equipment and assets, planning and technical assistance, military observers, training of African troops and civilian police officers and strategic transportation (EU civilian-military supporting action).

► EU personnel currently deployed to AMIS II includes 31 police officers, 16 military experts, and 2 military observers. In addition, 3 military staff, one police officer and one political advisor have been deployed to Addis Ababa to support the EU Special Representative for Sudan (see below) in his contacts and cooperation with the AU.

► In the same period, EU Member States have provided coordinated strategic airlift for well over 2,000 African Union personnel. The provision of airlift continues in 2007.

► The EU has committed a total of EUR 242 million from the African Peace Facility in support of AMIS since June 2004. This has provided the funds necessary to pay personnel costs including salaries, allowances, insurance, travel, rations and medical costs. Additional funding is being considered.

► Additionally, EU Member States have made substantial bilateral contributions – financial as well as the provision of expertise, equipment, food rations, airlift, etc. The estimated amount of Member States' support to AMIS is approximately EUR 160 million, taking the overall EU contribution to AMIS to some EUR 400 million for the period 2004-2006.

► Since July 2005, the EU has a Special Representative (EUSR) for Sudan. The EUSR, currently Mr Torben Brylle, who was appointed in May 2007, ensures coordination and coherence of the EU's contributions to AMIS. He is assisted by a team of EU military and police advisers in Addis Ababa.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Brussels, 23-24 April 2007

(...)

SUDAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council had an in-depth discussion on the situation in Sudan/Darfur in the presence of UN special envoy Jan Eliasson who briefed ministers on recent developments. After the discussion the Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council remains deeply concerned about the appalling security situation in Darfur which continues to threaten the civilian population and obstructs efforts of humanitarian organisations to provide much needed assistance. Despite a decline in direct military confrontations, there has been no improvement with regard to the overall level of violence and lawlessness. The Council is particularly concerned by the recent series of unprovoked attacks against AMIS, in which nine peacekeepers were killed in the last four weeks alone, and strongly condemns the most recent incident on 14 April in which an AMIS officer was shot in El Fasher. It calls upon all parties to abide by the cease-fire agreements, to respect the neutral role of AMIS and to fully cooperate with a thorough investigation of these heinous acts. Recalling that UN Security Council Resolution 1591 determines that those impeding the peace process shall be held responsible, the Council reiterates its support for urgent consideration by the Security Council of further measures.

2. The Council is further concerned about ongoing violations of human rights in the region. It welcomes in this context the adoption by consensus at the 4th session of the Human Rights Council of a resolution on the situation in Darfur, which highlights the seriousness of the human rights violations committed and sets up an independent group of high-level experts to foster the implementation of recommendations on Darfur. The Council urges the Government of Sudan to fully cooperate with this group. Concerning the humanitarian situation, the Council notes as a positive step the Joint Communiqué of 28 March between the Government of Sudan and the UN on the facilitation of humanitarian activities in Darfur and the creation of a committee to monitor the commitments made. Noting that bureaucratic restrictions are still impeding the humanitarian response, the Council calls upon the Government of Sudan to fully and unconditionally implement the provisions of this Communiqué and will closely follow this process.

3. Stressing the urgent need for an inclusive political agreement to solve the conflict in Darfur, the Council reiterates its strong support for the joint efforts of the AU and UN Special Envoys, Salim Salim and Jan Eliasson, to revitalise the political track and encourages all regional initiatives to closely coordinate their activities within this framework. The Council took note of the report of UN Special Envoy Jan Eliasson on progress in this regard. It calls upon all parties to the conflict to contribute to an atmosphere conducive for negotiations. The Council takes note of the SLM commanders conference at Um Rai/Darfur and in this context underlines the urgent need for rebel movements to step up preparations for an early resumption of political talks by further intensifying their efforts to unite around realistic political objectives.

4. Emphasising the need to enhance the capacities of the AMIS mission in Darfur, the

Council welcomes the agreement between the Sudanese government, the UN and the AU on the implementation of all provisions of the Heavy Support Package. The Council recalls that the transition to a full AU-UN hybrid mission in Darfur is urgently required and welcomes the progress achieved in this direction at the meeting between UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and AU Commission President Konaré on 16 April in New York. A clear demonstration of political will is now necessary by all parties to build the confidence that the letter and spirit of the agreements reached will be honoured. The Council reiterates its readiness to consider further measures notably, in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs their implementation.

5. The Council remains worried about the deteriorating effects the Darfur crisis has on existing tensions in neighbouring countries and expresses its particular concern about the recent direct confrontations of Chadian and Sudanese armed forces on 9 April on the Sudanese-Chadian border. The EU calls on both parties to refrain from any further escalation and to fully respect their commitments under the 2006 Tripoli agreement. The latest incidents demonstrate the extent of the crisis' regional dimension and underline the urgency to rapidly deploy the AU-UN hybrid force as well as a UN operation in Eastern Chad and in the North-East of the Central African Republic.

6. The Council reiterates its full support for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which remains crucial to a sustainable peace across the whole Sudan, including Darfur and the Eastern part of the country. While progress has been made, the implementation of vital provisions has fallen behind schedule. Of particular concern are delays in the delineation of the North-South border, the resolution of the Abyei question and the preparations for the general elections foreseen in 2009. The Council calls upon both parties to the agreement to intensify their efforts and is ready to assist efforts leading towards an accelerated implementation.

7. The EU reiterates its commitment to contributing to a peaceful, prosperous and united Sudan, including through the continuing efforts of the EU Special Representative for Sudan. The Council expresses its full confidence in Ambassador Torben Brylle, who will take over this position on 1 May and wishes to thank the outgoing Special Representative Pekka Haavisto for his outstanding work during his mandate.'

See also below decision on support to the AU mission in Sudan/Darfur (...).

ZIMBABWE – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed recent developments in Zimbabwe and adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council joins the UNSG and the AU in expressing strong concern at the rapidly deteriorating human rights, political and economic situation in Zimbabwe. The Council condemns in particular the acts of violent repression against the opposition and calls on all parties to refrain from violence. The Council welcomes the fact that the Human Rights Council has addressed the situation in Zimbabwe.

2. The Council urges the government of Zimbabwe to respect Africa's own commitments and approaches, in particular the NEPAD and the recently adopted African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

3. With a view to the potentially destabilising impact of the situation in Zimbabwe on the whole region, the Council commends the recent extra-ordinary SADC summit in Dar es Salaam and the SADC initiative in resolving this crisis. It welcomes the mandate given to President Mbeki to facilitate a dialogue between the opposition and the Government, and the engagement of President Kikwete as chair of the SADC organ. The Council stands ready to support the SADC initiative, if called upon to do so. Moreover, the Council urges all parties to engage with civil society, including the churches, to conduct a broad inclusive national dialogue, which is essential to lay the basis for genuine reform and national reconciliation.

4. In response to the acts of violence and abuses of human rights the Council will extend the visa ban list (as agreed by Common Position of 19 February 2007). The EU reiterates that its targeted measures (consisting of a visa ban, an assets freeze and an arms embargo) are exclusively aimed at those leading figures responsible for Zimbabwe's crisis of governance and abuses of human rights.

5. The EU, reaffirming its solidarity with the Zimbabwe people, will continue its contribution to operations of humanitarian nature and projects which are in direct support of the population. Funding activities that in 2006 amounted to EUR 193 million. The EU also wishes to confirm its willingness to continue to make use of the opportunity provided by the ongoing 10th EDF programming exercise to carry on the dialogue and as soon as conditions allow, to make progress towards a situation where the resumption of full cooperation becomes possible.

6. In the meantime, the Council will continue to keep the situation under close observation.'

SOMALIA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council recalls its ongoing concern at the situation in Somalia and stresses the importance of implementing the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1744 (2007) in order to address the political, security and humanitarian challenges faced in Somalia. The Council also welcomes the Communiqué of the International Contact Group on Somalia, dated 3 April 2007.

2. In particular, the Council expresses its grave concern at the escalation of the conflict, the renewed fighting in Somalia and the severe humanitarian suffering it has caused, and deeply deplores the loss of civilian life and particularly the indiscriminate shelling of heavily populated areas of Mogadishu. The EU emphasises the obligation on all parties to comply with international humanitarian law. It also urges them to work actively to guarantee complete, unhindered and safe access for humanitarian relief work. The Council strongly urges all parties to commit to a lasting cessation of hostilities to avoid further bloodshed. It stresses the need to reach an early agreement on comprehensive and permanent ceasefire arrangements, including mechanisms for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration.

3. The Council reconfirms its support to the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) as the organs mandated by the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) and the only legitimate authorities to restore peace, stability and governance to Somalia. The EU urges the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to show the leadership and reach out to all parts of Somali society, in launching an inclusive political process, based on the TFC. Particular attention should be given to the need for a broad-based administration of Mogadishu.

4. The Council urges the TFG to convene the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC) as

soon as possible. It states its readiness to support the Congress, financially and otherwise, based on the need for it to help deliver lasting agreement on ceasefire arrangements and a sustainable political process. The EU urges all Somali parties to support the early convening of the Congress and to participate in it constructively. The Council expects the Congress to involve all key stakeholders, who should be able to freely choose their representatives to the Congress.

5. The Council reaffirms its support for the Africa Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and welcomes the deployment of the Ugandan contingent. The Council expresses its sympathy for the tragic deaths of the Ugandan soldier and Belarusian aircrew in AMISOM, and strongly condemns any hostility towards AMISOM. The EU considers the deployment of AMISOM as crucial in creating the conditions for the stabilisation of the country and the early withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia, and therefore calls on all Somali actors to work with AMISOM to help achieve these aims.

6. The Council recalls the EU's contribution of EUR 15 million to the financing of AMISOM, and its provision of advisory and planning support to the AU, in addition to bilateral contributions from EU Member States. The Council calls on all international partners to provide further support to AMISOM and on the African troop contributing countries to pursue their deployment as soon as possible.'

See also below decision on assistance to the setting-up of the AU mission in Somalia (...).

CENTRAL ASIA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed the future EU Central Asia strategy as well as developments in the region and adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council welcomes the successful holding of the first EU Foreign Ministers' Troika Meeting with the five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in Astana on 28 March 2007. The Council agrees that the meeting was an important further step towards the strengthening of political dialogue with the Central Asian countries. In this context, the Council commends the efforts by the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Ambassador Pierre Morel.

2. The Council expresses its satisfaction at the agreement by the Foreign Ministers in Astana to intensify cooperation between the EU and the five Central Asian countries.

3. The Council held a first discussion on the draft EU Central Asia Strategy drawing on the results of the Astana meeting, earlier EU discussions and the views put forward by the Central Asian countries. The Council agreed to intensify within the framework of the Central Asia Strategy the Union's cooperation with Central Asian countries on an individual and regional basis, especially in the following fields: rule of law, human rights, and democratisation; education; energy and transport; environment; trade and economic development cooperation; regional security challenges, such as border management, combating drug trafficking and organised crime. The EU will draw upon the experience of the OSCE, the UN, international financial institutions and other regional organisations and will enhance cooperation with them.

4. Recalling the mandate of the European Council in December 2006 the Council agreed to return to the subject in June 2007 with a view to the adoption of the Strategy by the European Council in June 2007.

5. The Council continues to follow closely the situation in the Central Asian countries and in this context the Council takes note of some important recent developments:

- ▶ the Council notes that the second round of experts' talks took place on the Andijan events in Tashkent on 2 and 3 April 2007, recalling its previous Conclusions. The Council has decided to enter into a regular and result-oriented human rights dialogue between the EU and Uzbekistan. The Council looks forward to holding the first round of this dialogue as soon as possible.
- ▶ the Council takes note of promising first reform steps taken by the new Turkmen Government in the education and social systems. The EU encourages the Turkmen Government to implement necessary reforms and stands ready to support these efforts particularly in the fields of human rights, the judiciary and the rule of law, education, health and agricultural reform.
- ▶ the Council encourages all political forces in the Kyrgyz Republic to pursue a political dialogue that will enable the new Government to meet the high expectations of the Kyrgyz people for fundamental reforms. The EU stands ready to support all efforts which the Government is taking to strengthen the constitutional, legal, judicial and administrative systems in the Kyrgyz Republic in order to uphold the principles of international law and to improve the social situation as well as the investment climate.'

*
* *

EU-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue

The Council approved basic principles for the EU-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue. The principles include modalities, objectives and standing agenda items.

The human rights dialogue will take place within the subcommittee on justice and home affairs established under the EU-Uzbekistan partnership and cooperation agreement with the aim of fostering mutual understanding on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and the EU.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

Over lunch, ministers discussed the situation in the Middle East.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council welcomes the Arab Peace Initiative as reaffirmed in the declaration of the Arab League Summit of 29 March and supports it as a major element in moving the Middle East Peace Process forward. The Council welcomes the positive reaction of the Israeli Prime Minister and hopes that a constructive dialogue between Israel and the Arab side on the Initiative will start soon. The EU stands ready to work closely with the special committee and working groups to be established by the Arab League.

2. The EU continues to play an active role notably in the framework of increased Quartet engagement. To this end, the Council looks forward to an early Quartet meeting in the region and to close cooperation with regional partners. It invites the Quartet to lead an effort by the international community for successful negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the basis of the Road Map and to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

3. The Council welcomes the intention of President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert to meet on a regular basis. These meetings should contribute to the effective and sustainable improvement of the living conditions in the Palestinian territories and to security. The EU will continue to work closely with the parties including by practical measures regarding access and movement, governance and the security sector. The Council expresses the hope that the meetings between President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert, in the framework of a renewed political process, will soon lead to meaningful negotiations on the final status. The ultimate goal should be an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the creation of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state, living side-by-side with Israel and its other neighbours in peace and security.

4. The EU recalls its readiness to work with and to resume its direct assistance to a Palestinian government whose policy and actions reflect the Quartet principles. In that context, it continues to closely evaluate the policy and actions of the new National Unity Government. It has initiated co-operation with members of the government who accept these principles.

5. The EU stresses the importance of strengthening the Palestinian institutions. It commends the Palestinian Minister of Finance Salam Fayyad for re-establishing the Single Treasury Account. It encourages the minister to undertake further measures to ensure budgetary transparency and has offered its support in that respect.

6. Mindful of the continuing needs of the Palestinian people, the Council endorses the extension of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) for a further three months. It reiterates its call on Israel for the immediate resumption of the transfer of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues, directly or through the TIM. The Council recalls the utmost importance of the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access. It urges that Rafah and all other crossing points, notably Karni, be re-opened and remain open.

7. The Council calls on the parties to consolidate the cease-fire in Gaza and to extend it to the West Bank. It condemns the continued firing of rockets into Israeli territory and urges the Palestinian leadership to do everything in its power to put an end to such acts. It reiterates its call on the parties to put an end to all acts of violence, and to all activities which are contrary to international law. The EU remains deeply concerned with the continuation of settlement activities, and the ongoing construction of the barrier on Palestinian land.

8. The Council calls for the immediate release of the abducted Israeli soldier and commends efforts, including by partners in the region, to that effect. It also calls for the immediate release of Palestinian ministers and legislators detained by Israel.

9. The Council condemns the kidnapping of BBC journalist Alan Johnston in Gaza on 12 March 2007. The Council demands his unconditional and immediate release.'

IRAN

Ministers discussed relations with Iran and the Iranian nuclear programme, on which the EU applies a double-track approach, supporting the UN Security Council process, which has resulted in adoption of resolutions 1737 and 1747 introducing restrictive measures, whilst at the same time supporting efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution.

In this context High Representative Javier Solana briefed ministers ahead of his meeting with Iranian national security advisor Ali Larijani scheduled on 25 April, when he is due to explore the possibility for negotiations.

(...)

IRAQ – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council reaffirms its support to a secure, stable, democratic, prosperous, and unified Iraq and reiterates its commitment to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. It reiterates its support for the democratically elected Government of Iraq and for its efforts to restore public order, promote national reconciliation and rule of law, further economic reconstruction and engage Iraq's neighbouring states and the International Community.

2. The Council condemns in the strongest terms all forms of violence against the Iraqi population, including acts of terrorism, politically motivated or sectarian attacks, and forced displacement. It expresses its deep concern about the humanitarian and human rights situation in parts of Iraq, in particular the situation of internally displaced persons and of Iraqi refugees abroad and urges the government of Iraq to meet its responsibilities towards them. It notes the continued efforts of the multinational force to participate in humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in accordance with the mandate renewed by UNSCR 1723.

3. The Council encourages the Government of Iraq to intensify its efforts towards national reconciliation. It hopes that substantial progress will be made on the review of deBaathification and on the disbandment of militias, as well as against terrorism, and that appropriate measures will be taken to promote full inclusiveness. It urges all political and social groups in Iraq to pursue their demands through peaceful means and within Iraq's democratic institutions. The Council believes that fundamental decisions such as on the constitutional review, the federalism law and the status of Kirkuk, must be taken in a spirit of sincere dialogue and consensus-building if they are to serve as the basis for a peaceful and prosperous future for Iraq.

4. The Council welcomes the initiative to convene a conference of Iraq's neighbouring states with international participation in Sharm El Sheikh on 4 May, 2007. The international community, and in particular the States in the region, have a responsibility to support and promote the difficult process of national reconciliation and stabilisation in Iraq, and to prevent outside interference that could undermine this process. The Council expresses its hope that the planned conference give rise to a long-term process of regional confidence building through dialogue and co-operation. The EU stands ready to actively contribute to this endeavour.

5. The Council reiterates its support for the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) and warmly welcomes the launching of the Compact at a ministerial conference in Sharm El Sheikh on 3 May, 2007. It appreciates the ambitious benchmarks set by the Government of Iraq for its economic, political, security and social reform strategies and encourages Iraq to pursue these targets with all determination. Progress towards those targets will help to further enhance the EU's engagement with Iraq. The Council reaffirms its strong support for a central role of the UN in Iraq, especially in the political, human rights and humanitarian sectors, and in facilitating international support to Iraq.

6. The Council warmly welcomes the opening of negotiations for a Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Iraq and hopes for a timely continuation of these negotiations.

7. The EU will continue to work with the Government of Iraq to better align its assistance with the priorities laid down in the ICI. The Council welcomes the decisions by the Donor Committee of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) at its meeting

in Istanbul on 21 March, 2007 to assign the co-chairmanship to Iraq and Italy so as to better reflect Iraqi ownership and enhance donor visibility and to review IRFFI's terms of reference in order to align them with Iraqi priorities. This review should enable IRFFI to act as an important channel for international financial support for Iraq within the framework of the ICI.

8. The Council acknowledges the need to address the humanitarian needs of internally displaced people in Iraq and refugees in the region. It recognises the serious difficulties of effectively delivering humanitarian aid in Iraq given the security situation. The Council encourages the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian agencies to assist the government of Iraq in this respect and welcomes efforts to provide protection and assistance in neighbouring countries. The Council welcomes the international attention to the Iraqi displacement situation afforded by the International Conference on Addressing the Humanitarian Needs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons inside Iraq and in Neighbouring Countries in Geneva on 17/18 April 2007. The Council stresses the need to improve conditions for channelling international support to that end. The Council recognises the solidarity shown by Iraq's neighbouring countries, in particular Jordan and Syria, towards the plight of Iraqi refugees and stresses the importance of furthering the dialogue with countries in the region to create conditions for an appropriate assistance strategy.

9. The Council calls for a comprehensive approach towards the dire situation of refugees in Iraq and in the neighbouring regions. The Council also underlines the importance of ensuring that those seeking safety do not fall into the hands of traffickers and smugglers.'

(...)

NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The Council reaffirms its support for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which represents the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the Treaty and also the key element in the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article IV of the Treaty.

We are firmly committed to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime as underlined in the EU Common Position of 25 April 2005.

We are committed to contributing to a successful outcome of the Review Process, which will commence with the first session of the Preparatory Committee to be held in Vienna from 30 April to 11 May of this year.

The Council calls on all state parties to the NPT to join the EU in making every effort to ensure a smooth start to the Review Process. We are looking forward to constructive and substantive discussions in the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Committee aimed at maintaining the integrity and enhancing the authority of the NPT.'

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILE PROLIFERATION – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council underlined the importance it attaches to the International Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation (HCOC). In the light of the “List of Priorities” for the implementation of the WMD Strategy adopted by the Council in December 2006 (16801/06), the Council agreed to take action in order to promote the universality of the Code and compliance with its principles. The meeting of State Parties of the HCOC end of May/beginning of June 2007 will be particularly important in that respect.

Therefore the Council decides that, in advance of that meeting, a Conference will be organised in cooperation with the EU Institute of Security Studies (EU ISS), which will address both universalisation and compliance. The organisation of the Conference will take place under the supervision/aegis of the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR.’

HIV/AIDS – RECENTLY EMERGING ISSUES – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council and the representatives of the member states adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council recalls the goals and objectives set out in the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration, the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS agreed at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) in 2001, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS agreed at UNGASS+5 in 2006, the European Programme for Action to Confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis through External Action (2007-2011) and the ICPD Cairo Agenda and emphasises the importance of their implementation in order to fight the three diseases successfully and help meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular MDG 6, by 2015.

2. Highlighting the important role the European Union plays in confronting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, the Council welcomes the Presidency Paper on “*Recently Emerging Issues regarding HIV/AIDS*” that focuses on newly emerging issues and barriers that hinder our progress in tackling HIV/AIDS and the effective implementation of the European Programme of Action. The Council recognises that the fight against HIV/AIDS can only be successful if a comprehensive approach is taken that includes scaling up significantly towards the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.

3. To reverse the current trend of feminisation, the Council recognises the need to eliminate gender inequalities, gender-based violence and abuse as well as to increase the capacity of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV infection through the provision of health care and services, including those related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as full access to education and information. The Council recognises women’s right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection and calls on the Commission and the Member States to take all necessary measures to promote and support an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and their full economic independence.

4. Whilst these Conclusions focus on the recent trend of feminisation, the Council emphasises the need to also focus on young people, especially young women and girls, children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, including children orphaned by AIDS and children

and infants in need of treatment, women and girls in conflict situations as well as other key populations at particular risk of HIV infection, including men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, sex workers, prison populations, migrants, refugees, trafficking victims and others and to support their inclusion in the planning of strategies and programmes as well as in the decision making process in order to tackle HIV/AIDS successfully.

5. In light of increasing feminisation of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the Council strongly reaffirms the linkage between HIV/AIDS policies and programmes and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) policies and services, and their inter-relationships with broader issues of public health, development and human rights, as agreed by the international community as a global effort towards the achievement of the MDGs.

6. The Council recognises the importance of integrating and mainstreaming the fight against HIV/AIDS within national development priorities, plans and programmes, including in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and in development cooperation programmes of the EC and EU Member States and in donors' recruitment policies when employing local staff. In this context, the Council wishes to recall the commitment in the EU Consensus on Development and the Development Cooperation Instrument to mainstream confronting HIV/AIDS in all activities and recognises the importance of the ongoing programming process for developing countries in providing an opportunity for making the existing commitments operational and responding to emerging issues in all EC Country Strategy Papers (CSPs), National Indicative Programmes (NIPs), annual action programmes and programme preparation.

7. The Council emphasises the importance of achieving sufficient, long-term, predictable, sustainable and increased funding to tackle HIV/AIDS in order to build-up and strengthen health and other social services, including basic health services, and to intensify research and development of new, improved and affordable tools of prevention, treatment and early diagnostics, including vaccines, paediatric drugs and microbicides. In this respect, the EU will continue working in the area of HIV/AIDS through a wide array of existing financing instruments at global and country level including the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). The EU will collectively maintain and increase funding to the GFATM and welcomes also the development and exploration of innovative sources of financing including through such mechanisms as the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID), the International Finance Facility (IFF), Advance Market Commitment for Vaccines (AMC) and others.

8. Recognising that HIV/AIDS is affecting more and more women and girls, the Council calls upon the Commission and the Member States to:

- ▀ Support the adoption and strengthening of legal, policy and administrative measures at country level to promote and fully protect women's and girls' rights and reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of violence, stigma and discrimination as well as all kind of sexual exploitation of women, girls and boys including for commercial reasons.
- ▀ Promote and support the enactment and enforcement of legislation in order to uphold and fully protect women's rights and so reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through improving the status of women in society and strengthening their economic independence, including through the right to own and inherit property, as well as protect women and girls against violence and abuse, including through empowering women, educating

the police, the judiciary, social service providers, civil servants and community leaders and through improvement of legal aid services and other forms of support for women and girls to claim their rights.

- ▶ Confront gender based violence, including female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional and customary practices, through political dialogue at country level and identify and develop social protection mechanisms that benefit households affected by HIV/AIDS and relieve the burden of care for women.
 - ▶ Promote and support increased participation of women where AIDS policies are formulated, agreed and implemented, and funds are allocated, with targets that can be measured and for which there is accountability.
 - ▶ Promote and support the inclusion of the issue of feminisation of HIV/AIDS in education programmes in order to raise awareness among girls and boys as well as young women and men of the threat posed by the pandemic.
 - ▶ Strengthen women's organisations to play an active role in developing and implementing such policies.
 - ▶ Reaffirm their commitment to prevention and to focus on aspects of prevention such as SRHR, harm reduction and preventing mother to child transmission (PMTCT), including through actions that support the reversing of the downward trend in financing for SRHR.
 - ▶ Support programmes that work with men and women to address gender and behaviour norms and norms around sexual relations that make women vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection.
 - ▶ Promote the collection, analysis and use of age and sex-disaggregated data and their inclusion in reporting.
9. Emphasising the urgent need for much stronger links between HIV/AIDS and SRHR in policies, programmes and services, the Council calls upon the Commission and the Member States to:
- ▶ Promote strategies that ensure that HIV/AIDS and SRHR programmes contribute to the overall strengthening and sustainability of health systems including funding and implementation of the European Programme for Action to tackle the critical shortage of health workers in developing countries for the time period 2007-2013.
 - ▶ Promote universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights and commodities, including male and female condoms as the most efficient means to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and to join efforts and explore ways to fill the commodities gap in this regard.
 - ▶ Promote the greater involvement of potential beneficiaries, including people living with HIV, women and youth groups in the design, programming and implementation of SRHR programmes and HIV/AIDS initiatives.
 - ▶ Ensure that SRHR and HIV/AIDS policies, programmes and services are built on the fundamental commitment to respect, protect and promote human rights.
 - ▶ Promote linkages between HIV/AIDS and SRHR within all existing national development plans and budgets, including health sector reforms, PRSPs as well as sector wide approaches and ensure that the linkages are addressed within EC instruments.
 - ▶ Promote a coordinated and coherent response to HIV/AIDS that builds upon the Three Ones Principles³ and the harmonisation agenda fully supported by the EU.

3. **One** national HIV/AIDS framework, **One** broad-based multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS coordinating body, and **One** agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system.

10. Emphasising the importance of increasing and improving prevention options and choices of women, the Council calls upon the Commission and the Member States to:

- ▶ Working with relevant and interested parties, pursue the dialogue with decision makers in developing countries on the importance of implementing measures to increase and improve affordable prevention options and choices for women, including the female condom and microbicides, and the importance of further research and development of such tools.
- ▶ Work with existing organisations that currently support microbicide research in order to broaden the donor base and to enhance wider preparedness at local level aimed at improving trial and production capacity, training for medical staff, and development of national awareness campaigns.
- ▶ Sponsor an EU or international Conference at the expert level with a wide group of stakeholders including representatives of the WHO, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), civil society, including the International Partnership for Microbicides and the Association for Microbicide Development, regulatory authorities from developing countries and the pharmaceutical industry, on expanding HIV/AIDS preventive options.

11. Recognising the specific vulnerability of children and especially girls to HIV/AIDS and the need to protect them, the Council calls upon the Commission and the Member States to:

- ▶ Address as a priority the vulnerability of children affected by and living with HIV/AIDS, providing support to them and their families and caregivers, women and the elderly as well as promoting child-oriented HIV/AIDS policies and programmes and increased protection of children orphaned by AIDS through renewed efforts to develop treatment for children.
- ▶ Provide support to awareness campaigns on linkages between HIV/AIDS and education.
- ▶ Support developing countries in developing and improving formal strategies for an education sector response to HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ Support the strengthening of social and legal protection systems as well as the creation of less susceptible livelihoods as an integral part of PRSPs in order to support households caring for orphans and vulnerable children as well as child headed households.
- ▶ Support comprehensive education programmes which address HIV/AIDS systematically, including the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its spread among young people, and provide young girls and boys with information, life skills and opportunities to protect themselves against HIV infection.
- ▶ Foster the sharing of information and best practices in sectoral approaches to HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ Support capacity building programmes in the education sector.

12. The Council encourages the Commission and Member States to ensure implementation of existing commitments within the EU Programme for Action on HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis and calls on the Commission and Member States to report on progress, including on these emerging issues regarding HIV/AIDS, in the context of the joint monitoring and reporting on the European Programme for Action in 2008 and 2010.'

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Sudan/Darfur – Support to the African Union mission

The Council adopted a decision implementing joint action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (7727/07).

The decision sets at EUR 2,125 million the financial envelope for covering expenditure involved by the EU civilian support action from 1 May until 31 October 2007. This amount will cover the period of the current mandate of AMIS and a subsequent transitional period leading to a possible transition to a UN/AU hybrid operation.

The Council decided to evaluate, no later than 30 June 2007, whether the EU supporting action should be continued.

Somalia – Assistance to the setting-up of the African Union mission

The Council adopted a joint action amending joint action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS) so as to include a military support element providing assistance to the setting up of the African Union mission in Somalia (AMISOM) (8339/07).

The EU action is aimed at supporting AU efforts in contributing to the initial stabilisation phase in Somalia and will be developed in respect and support of the principle of African ownership.

The new joint action is the EU's response to the request made by the African Union for expertise, on a temporary basis, to assist the AMISOM military planning cell situated at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

EU support to AMISOM will be deployed within the framework of the EU supporting action to AMIS in Sudan.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Terrorist list – Review

The Council, with a view to the next update of the EU terrorist list in line with article 1(6) of common position 2001/931/CFSP, which provides for a regular review, re-examined the list of persons, groups and entities subject to the restrictive measures provided for under Council regulation (EC) 2580/2001.

The parties concerned will be informed that the Council intends to maintain them on the list and will be informed via a 'statement of reasons' of the specific information that forms the basis for the Council's decision. The statements of reasons will not be made available to the public unless the Council receives the agreement of the person, group or entity concerned.

For those whose address is unknown, a notice will be published in the Official Journal which will indicate that they may submit a request to the Council to obtain its statement of reasons for

maintaining them on the list⁴.

The persons, groups and entities concerned will also be informed about the opportunity to make their views known and present observations.

The Council will consider any reaction by the parties concerned before taking a final decision. A consolidated list of persons, groups and entities subject to the restrictive measures provided for under Council regulation 2580/2001 will be published at the end of the review procedure.

It is recalled that Council regulation 2580/2001 provides for a freezing of all funds, other financial assets and economic resources belonging to the persons or entities listed.

(...)

4. OJ C 90 of 25.4.2007, p.1.

10th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Brussels, 29 April 2007

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which came into force in April 1997, is a pillar of the international regime for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. With its 182 Member States, it is today approaching universality. On the occasion of this tenth anniversary, the European Union called on all states who are not party to the Convention to ratify it or accede to it without delay and pledged to continue its diplomatic efforts to this end.

DECLARATION OF THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EU

29 April 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The Chemical Weapons Convention is a cornerstone of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaty regime. It is unique, since it bans completely and without exception an entire category of weapons of mass destruction and requires the destruction of all chemical weapons under international verification.

With the entry into force of the Convention, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was set up in The Hague and tasked with the implementation of the Convention. The EU congratulates the OPCW on its remarkable success in the faithful and effective discharge of the functions entrusted to it under the terms of the Convention. In this respect, the EU considers the OPCW to be an inspiring example for effective multilateralism in the field of non-proliferation and verifiable arms control.

Within 10 years membership in the CWC has grown from 88 to 182 States Parties; only 6 states have signed, but not yet ratified; and only 7 have not signed at all. The Chemical Weapons Convention is thus approaching universality. The EU calls upon all States not Party to ratify or accede to the Convention without delay. The EU also takes this opportunity to call for universal adherence to all international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties, agreements and instruments. The EU pledges to continue its diplomatic efforts to promote the universality of the CWC.

The EU recognises the progress achieved by States Parties possessing chemical weapons in the destruction of these weapons. The EU recalls the importance of complete and irreversible destruction of all declared chemical weapons within the deadline set under the Convention, i.e. not later than 29 April 2012, and urges all possessor states to undertake every effort to meet their deadline.

The EU underlines that full national implementation of all Convention obligations by all States Parties makes a significant contribution towards enhancing global security and stability, including in the fight against terrorism. The EU will continue to offer assistance to States Parties in this field.

The EU is committed to further strengthening the CWC, in particular by enhancing confidence in compliance through a strengthening of the Treaty's verification regime.

The EU highly values the ongoing contribution made by its chemical industry to the success of the Convention. In particular, industry's unequivocal support for effective implementation of the Convention's industry verification regime is instrumental in further enhancing confidence in the non-proliferation of chemical weapons.

The EU stresses the importance of the Convention's provisions on assistance and protection against the use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons. The EU believes that fostering international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities contributes to the promotion of the Convention as a whole.

Through its successive Joint Actions in support of the OPCW, the EU has supported the objectives of the Convention, in particular in assisting in and promoting chemical weapons destruction, universality, national implementation and international cooperation. The EU pledges to continue this support.

The EU will continue to work for the achievement of all the Convention's objectives in the coming years, and looks forward to a successful outcome to the Second Review Conference in 2008.

(...)

EU-US Summit

Washington, 30 April 2007

(...)

1. 2007 EU-US SUMMIT

We, the leaders of the European Union and the United States of America, met today in Washington to deepen our strategic partnership. This partnership is based on common values, in particular on the deeply shared conviction that peace, prosperity and human development depend upon the protection of individual liberty, human rights, the rule of law, economic freedom, energy security, environmental protection and the growth of strong, democratic societies.

Our partnership has achieved much over the years, and today we have reviewed our work over the past year. Yet we continue to face major challenges, at home and abroad. Consistent with our commitment to work together to advance our shared values and interests, we have today:

- ▶ **Adopted** a framework on transatlantic economic integration which lays a long-term foundation for building a stronger and more integrated transatlantic economy, in particular by fostering cooperation to reduce regulatory burdens and accelerating work on key 'lighthouse projects' in the areas of intellectual property rights, secure trade, investment, financial markets, and innovation. We also reaffirm our strong desire to reach a prompt agreement in the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations that is ambitious, balanced and comprehensive and creates meaningful new trade flows in agriculture, industrial goods and services among and between developed and developing countries;
- ▶ **Adopted** a declaration on political and security issues, including commitments to concrete actions to strengthen liberty, prosperity, security, peace and human rights and address regional challenges, in particular regarding Kosovo, Afghanistan, the Middle East, Iraq, Sudan, Latin America, and efforts to combat terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to work towards visa-free travel for all EU and U.S. citizens by creating conditions by which the Visa Waiver Program may be expanded;
- ▶ **Adopted** a joint statement on energy security and climate change that underlines our mutual interest in ensuring secure, affordable, and clean supplies of energy and tackling climate change. We will broaden and reinforce our activities to improve energy security and reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, while supporting economic growth;
- ▶ **Welcomed** the signing of a first stage Air Transport Agreement which is an historic advance in liberalizing transatlantic air traffic. This agreement will bring real benefits for consumers and airline companies on both sides of the Atlantic. We reaffirm our commitment to pursue, as a matter of priority and no later than 60 days after March 30, 2008, negotiations to conclude a second stage agreement in order to achieve further liberalization.

(...)

3. 2007 EU-US SUMMIT: PROMOTING PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE

The European Union and the United States share a deep conviction that peace and human development depend upon the protection of individual liberty, human rights, the rule of law, economic opportunity, and the growth of strong, democratic societies.

Today, the **Western Balkans** are at a crucial juncture. At this point the most urgent issue is to find a solution to the Kosovo status issue. We support the efforts of UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and believe that his comprehensive proposal submitted by the UN Secretary General to the Security Council on March 26, 2007, creates the basis for a new UNSC Resolution. We urge the Security Council to adopt such a resolution in a timely manner. Resolving the status of Kosovo will enhance the development and the stability of the entire region. We reiterate that resolving the pending status of Kosovo is a unique case and does not set any precedent. We will work closely, in coordination with NATO and the UN, to ensure security in Kosovo during the transition phase following the conclusion of a status settlement. We welcome the EU's decision to establish a European Security and Defence Policy police and rule of law mission in Kosovo, and we look forward to US participation in that mission. We also welcome NATO's commitment to continuing the KFOR mission to provide security and the readiness of the OSCE to continue its mission in Kosovo. We support convening a donors' conference to assist Kosovo's post-status development. We support the European and the Euro-Atlantic perspective for all Western Balkans nations and will continue to assist them on their way.

We will work together to strengthen democratic institutions, assist civil society, and support freedom of information in **Belarus**. We demand that Belarusian authorities immediately release all political prisoners. We remain open to developing bilateral relations with Belarus, once the Belarusian authorities respect human rights, the rule of law and democratic values.

We will continue support for **Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Central Asian states** to promote democracy, the rule of law, and economic development.

We note the importance of our relationship with Russia. A stable, prosperous and democratic **Russia** remains in our common interest. We seek in our relations with Russia to promote common values such as political pluralism, the rule of law, and human rights, including freedom of media, expression and assembly, and note our concerns in these areas. We will continue to work with Russia in areas of mutual interest, including non-proliferation, counterterrorism, energy security and regional issues, such as the resolution of frozen conflicts. We will also continue to work with Russia towards its accession to the World Trade Organization.

We are committed to continue our support for the Afghan people in building a state that respects the rights of its citizens and governs its territory effectively. We are involved in **Afghanistan** not least because we know that a stable, democratic Afghanistan will prevent extremists from finding safe haven there and from using Afghan territory to once again attack our nations. We will contribute to the promotion of confidence, dialogue and cooperation between Afghanistan and all its neighbours, in particular Pakistan.

We reaffirm the necessity of a comprehensive approach to the challenges in Afghanistan based upon the objectives agreed upon in the Afghanistan Compact. An international military presence is necessary and we must support NATO's mission, but military efforts alone will not bring about the peaceful, democratic future that the people of Afghanistan deserve. We therefore will continue – and, where possible, expedite – our assistance to rebuild infrastructure and

create economic opportunity for the Afghan people. In particular, we will seek to increase the use of quick impact funds and other such programs that will allow the Government of Afghanistan to rapidly deliver services and development on the ground. In close coordination we will also continue to provide training for police and prosecutors. We welcome the planning for a European Security and Defence Policy mission in the field of policing, building upon the efforts of key partners, together with a package of support for the justice sector. We underline the importance of close cooperation with NATO in advancing these efforts. We commit ourselves to support the full range of Afghan Government efforts against the poppy trade in the framework of the National Drug Control Strategy.

We will continue to work closely together, including through the Quartet, to promote a renewed political process between Israeli and Palestinian leaders with the goal of creating an independent, democratic and viable **Palestinian state**, living side by side in peace and security with **Israel**. We agree on the continuing need for a Palestinian Authority Government committed to the Quartet principles: renunciation of violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations made by the Palestinian Authority, including the Roadmap. The commitment of the National Unity Government to the Quartet principles of peace will be measured not only on the basis of its composition and platform, but also its actions. We are working jointly for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and call on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to take the necessary steps. We will continue work to develop an international support mechanism for the Palestinians, with the objective of assisting the population and improving governance, and will pursue efforts to reform and professionalize the legitimate Palestinian security forces to allow them to re-establish law and order and an end to all acts of terrorism.

We reaffirm our commitment to the sovereignty and independence of **Lebanon** and support its legitimate and democratically-elected government. We express our appreciation for the constructive mediation efforts aiming at solving the political crisis in Lebanon, in particular those of the Secretary General of the Arab League and Saudi Arabia. We call for the rapid delivery of pledges made at the Paris III Donors Conference, including assistance with political, economic, institutional and security reforms. We call for the rapid establishment of the Special Tribunal on the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri and others, in keeping with UNSCRs 1644 and 1664. The EU and the US call on all parties in the region to fully comply with UNSCR 1701. We commit to assist the Lebanese Government to strengthen security on the Syrian-Lebanese border to prevent the illegal flow of arms into Lebanon, including through technical assistance for Lebanon's border security and customs authorities. We welcome steps being taken to improve coordination and to examine all options for strengthening the UNSCR 1701 arms embargo.

We remain deeply concerned about the role **Syria** plays within the region and its repression of civil society. We call upon the Syrian government to fully implement UNSCRs 1559, 1595, 1636, 1680 and 1701. Syria must end all interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon and in the region, particularly in Iraq and the Palestinian territories. Our approach to Syria will be based on concrete steps by the Syrian government on all of these fronts, including full Syrian cooperation with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon once it has been established.

We remain committed to efforts of the international community to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapons capability, and call on **Iran** to comply with its obligations and UNSCRs 1696, 1737, and 1747. The United States and the European Union have worked cooperatively for sev-

eral years to reach a negotiated agreement with Iran; to this end we have offered Iran a set of far-reaching proposals that would allow Iran to pursue a civil nuclear power program while reassuring the international community of Iran's intentions. We remain deeply concerned about negative effects of Iran's policies in the region – particularly in Lebanon and Iraq, its negative role in the Middle East Peace Process, Iran's support for terrorist organisations, and the human rights situation in Iran. We will continue to expand our contacts with Iranian civil society and enhance academic, cultural, and business exchanges. We will seek to have our views and arguments heard within the Iranian society. We will also work together in international bodies to seek consensus to condemn Iranian threats against Israel and any denial of the Holocaust.

We will continue to provide support to the democratically elected government of Iraq, including within the framework of the International Compact, and will work with the United Nations and World Bank to expand the role of multilateral development institutions in the country; and also through continued and expanded political and diplomatic engagement, including on the ground in Baghdad as the security situation permits. Further financial support should focus on building Iraq's capacity to govern itself and on extending the rule of law to all. We support the Neighbours process, which is essential to Iraq's stability, security, and economic transition. We will work to ensure the full support of all regional parties for Iraq's security and stability, pursuant their obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

Four years after the conflict began in **Darfur** the violence and atrocities against innocent civilians continue. We agree that the time has come to take immediate actions to stop the fighting and human suffering in Darfur and find a political solution to end the conflict. We continue to strongly support the joint efforts by the AU and UN special envoys, Salim Salim and Jan Eliasson to strengthen the ceasefire and re-launch the political process. We further support efforts to deploy hybrid peacekeeping force under the Addis Ababa Framework.

We note Sudan's acceptance of the UN Heavy Support Package (HSP) to the AU Mission in **Sudan** (AMIS) and expect Sudan to cooperate fully with the UN and the AU to ensure the expeditious implementation of the HSP, as well as to fully accept the hybrid peacekeeping force with a unified command and control for the UN-AU force led by the United Nations. In the meantime, we will continue our support to AMIS. If no progress on a political solution or on the implementation of the hybrid-mission is achieved soon, we agree to support initiatives by the UNSC to work on a new UNSCR that imposes multilateral sanctions against individuals and Sudanese entities, extends the arms embargo and establishes the capacity to monitor and report on offensive flights that are inconsistent with the UNSCR 1591. We underscore the importance that those responsible for atrocities in Darfur are brought to justice. We support implementation of the North-South Agreement as the framework for a united, peaceful, prosperous and democratic Sudan. We will work with the relevant authorities and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to build the capacity of the police force in the south and in the transition areas. We will work with the U.N., the Sudanese government and other partners to ensure humanitarian access and broaden disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, including child soldiers.

We are concerned about ongoing fighting and the loss of lives in **Somalia** and urge all sides to immediately implement a cease fire and to refrain from any further acts of violence. We call for unhindered humanitarian access to be granted immediately to assist those displaced by the violence. We support the Transitional Federal Government's (TFG) efforts to host as soon as

possible a National Reconciliation Congress and urge the TFG to engage all Somali stakeholders in a process of broad-based, inclusive, and meaningful dialogue. International donor support is needed for building the governance capacity of the Transitional Federal Institutions in Somalia, and for sustaining an African Union peacekeeping force there.

Latin America and the Caribbean are growing economically and held 13 national elections in 2006. Democratic structures are well rooted in many Latin American countries. Nonetheless, too many Latin Americans still live in poverty and the full benefits of democracy and social justice are still a distant reality. We will work with countries in the region to deliver the benefits of good governance; improve education, healthcare, and housing; and reduce poverty by creating jobs. We will support human rights, freedom of the press, and free speech in the region. In particular, we will support the Cuban people as they seek to exercise these same rights. We will continue to work with Latin American countries to advance agreements that will foster regional integration, accelerate economic growth, promote development, and bolster democracy.

In a world of global threats and challenges our security and prosperity increasingly depend on an **effective multilateral system**. Strengthening the United Nations and equipping it to fulfil its responsibilities is our common priority. We will strive to improve the effectiveness of the UN in challenging regimes intent upon violating or disregarding their citizens' human rights and work together with the UN in support of international action on issues such as disarmament, peacekeeping, human rights and development.

During the past year, continuing terrorist activity around the world has served as a reminder of the urgent need to intensify our work together to **combat terrorism**, transnational crime and corruption. Consistent with our common values, we reaffirm our long-standing commitment to ensure that efforts taken to combat terrorism comply with our obligations under international law including human rights law, refugee law, and international humanitarian law. We will continue and deepen our ongoing dialogue on international law principles relevant to our common fight against terrorism which has contributed to a better understanding of our respective legal frameworks and should help us to work together to combat terrorism.

We will work to enhance the timely sharing of information while ensuring the **protection of personal data**. We are conducting negotiations to replace the current interim agreement on the transfer of passenger name record data. We will also work together to strengthen other governments' legal, law enforcement and prosecutorial capacity to combat terrorist groups. We welcome the conclusion of the agreement on the security of classified information.

We will continue to strengthen our preventive measures by implementing international standards to **combat terrorist financing**. To this end, we are committed to developing and implementing targeted sanctions against terrorist organizations and their support networks. We will work towards developing joint action plans to implement the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) strategic framework i.a. for combating terrorist exploitation of charities and the illicit use of cash couriers.

Progress has been made on the question of improving the freedom of movement of people between our two continents. U.S. citizens already enjoy **visa-free travel** to all EU member states. We aim at swift progress in achieving visa-free travel for all EU citizens to the United States consistent with the U.S. proposal to strengthen the security of its Visa Waiver Program and accelerate the expansion of visa-free travel, which is an important step forward in facilitating travel between the United States and Europe.

We will launch a pilot project to engage EU feeder ports in the joint targeting of transatlantic shipments so we can identify and promptly **investigate high-risk containerized shipments**. We will assess mutual recognition of controls and certifications to reduce the burden on legitimate business and so encourage legitimate trade.

We will enhance EU-U.S. **efforts against drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and corruption** by deepening cooperation among prosecutors and investigators through established liaison relationships with, among others, Eurojust, Europol, and the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, and use these relationships to promote investigations and prosecutions of serious crimes. We will help strengthen criminal justice systems in third countries by providing technical assistance that builds law enforcement capacity. We will coordinate in developing an effective mechanism for reviewing implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption and providing technical assistance to help countries implement the Convention. We will combat the flow of Afghan heroin and Andean cocaine by helping those governments attack drug production at their source, dismantle drug trafficking organizations, and stem the flow of illicit drugs through all relevant transit routes to Europe and the United States. To combat money laundering worldwide, we will coordinate efforts to reform legislation, investigate formal and informal money laundering networks, and ensure enforcement of international obligations.

In our critical efforts to **stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)**, we continue to make individual and collective efforts to implement, strengthen and universalise key multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament obligations, treaties and initiatives. We reaffirm the value of continuing consultations on these issues and will continue to seek ways to strengthen coordination and accelerate implementation.

We reaffirm our **commitment to the objectives and obligations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**. We call for all States Parties to support and strengthen the non-proliferation and disarmament regime and to make a constructive contribution to a balanced and structured review of the NPT. We will undertake all efforts to achieve a successful outcome of the review process. In the face of the challenges to the NPT the maintenance of its authority and integrity including by encouraging compliance is of utmost importance.

Addressing **proliferation financing** remains critical to our global efforts to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. We support the UNSC 1540 Committee and the development of a coordinated process for the implementation of UNSCR 1540. This process will include identifying gaps in legislative framework and their enforcement measures and, if requested, assisting States to develop road maps or plans of action for addressing remaining measures to be taken and to offer assistance to implement the resolution fully. We reaffirm the urgency of implementing the WMD proliferation financing measures required by UNSCR 1540 and other international obligations, including the freezing of assets required by UNSCRs 1718 (North Korea) 1737 and 1747 (Iran) and subsequent resolutions. We are committed to working together on new initiatives in this area, including by targeting proliferation finance making use of the expertise of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and examining possibilities to develop a global mechanism.

In our efforts to combat proliferation, we support multilateral fuel supply assurances in order to give an incentive for states not to pursue enrichment and reprocessing, to prevent the further spread of sensitive technologies that provide more nations access to weapons-usable nuclear materials.

We call on the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Iran**, respectively, to take the steps required of them by the international community and to build international confidence. If they do so, we are ready to respond positively. We call upon all UN Member States to implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions immediately and in full, including those aimed at guaranteeing the exclusively peaceful purpose of Iran's nuclear program.

Regarding the DPRK, we commend the progress made by the Six-Party Talks and urge the DPRK to fulfil its commitments in the September 2005 Joint Statement and February 13 Initial Actions agreement to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and to return, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons obligations and to IAEA safeguards.

We will continue to support the global fight against **AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** and other infectious diseases using bilateral and multilateral instruments, institutions and partnerships. We will combine efforts to address health related problems and to strengthen health care systems, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria infects an estimated 300-500 million people each year, straining fragile health systems. Through programs such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to which EU Member States, the European Commission and the United States are major contributors, as well as the U.S. Malaria Initiative, we are in a better position to fight the scourge of malaria, but more must be done by the international community. An estimated \$2.9 billion is needed each year to fight this battle. We are committed to fund this effort, and to better leverage public and private sector investments to assist in accomplishing our common goal. We will renew and strengthen our efforts to eradicate polio, working with the endemic nations and the WHO. We will continue to increase our global cooperation to mitigate and prepare for an influenza pandemic and welcome the contribution of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza to these efforts.

While reaffirming our sympathy to the children infected with HIV/Aids in Libya, we will reinforce our efforts aimed at the release and exoneration of the Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor sentenced to death against all scientific evidence.

Conflicts and the failures of state governance cause human and economic catastrophes, destabilize neighbouring countries and regions, and threaten the security of the international community. We recognise that modern **crisis management** requires a comprehensive approach. Through close collaboration between the European Union and the United States, consistent with and building upon cooperation with NATO, other nations, the UN and other multilateral organizations as appropriate, we can improve our response to these crises. We will enhance our cooperation in the field of crisis management, consistent with our respective commitments to and agreements with multilateral organizations.

4. 2007 EU-US SUMMIT STATEMENT ON ENERGY SECURITY, EFFICIENCY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Ensuring secure, affordable supplies of energy and tackling climate change are central, inter-linked global challenges facing the international community. Addressing these issues requires urgent, sustained global action and an integrated policy approach, using a wide range of regionally, nationally or internationally defined policy tools and measures. We are determined to ensure access to affordable, clean, and secure sources of energy to underpin sustainable global economic growth and to protect our environment. Tackling the challenge

of energy security will also require unprecedented international cooperation in several areas, including increasing energy efficiency, market transparency, diversifying energy supplies – including the share of renewable energies – and protecting and maintaining the world's energy supply system.

We are committed to the ultimate objective of stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and we acknowledge the recent work of the IPCC. The respective responsibilities of industrialized and major emerging economies require strengthened action according to our national circumstances. Developing and commercializing advanced technologies will allow us to slow, stabilize and then significantly cut net global emissions of greenhouse gases. This requires strong economies and a wide range of policy instruments, including market based instruments, to generate technology investment and commercialization and achieve emission reductions. To achieve these objectives, we will work together and with other nations to deliver results in our global efforts to confront climate change through the upcoming G8 summit in Heiligendamm, our numerous multilateral partnerships, and by promoting a constructive agenda for the UNFCCC Conference in Indonesia in December 2007.

We especially note the importance of advancing energy efficiency, near-zero emissions coal and renewables, including biofuels, in improving our energy security and reducing anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Nuclear energy can also contribute to reach these goals in countries that decide to use this option. We therefore affirm our commitment to accelerate the transformation of our energy infrastructure so that we can effectively tackle the inter-linked challenges of climate change, energy security, and clean and sustainable development. As we usher in this Age of Energy Transformation, we will act together in true partnership to advance our shared climate, sustainable development, and energy security goals, using a mix of nationally, regionally or internationally defined policy tools to research, develop, deploy and commercialize clean energy technologies that will change the way we power our homes, businesses, and automobiles.

Complementary Goals:

Our common goals for clean energy development and commercialization in the near and medium-term include, but are not limited to, the following sectors:

Promoting Advanced Coal Technologies, including Near Zero Emissions:

The European Union considers carbon dioxide capture and storage an important option in a broad portfolio of measures to reduce CO₂ emissions. Given the early stage of some elements of the CCS-technology concept, the EU will establish a mechanism to stimulate the construction by 2015 of a network of up to 12 demonstration plants of sustainable fossil fuel technologies in commercial power generation. As well as examining financial support mechanisms, this work will develop a regulatory framework to ensure that CCS is developed and managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner. This work includes in particular the examination of the availability and suitability of appropriate CO₂-storage reservoirs in geological formations. The EU's regulatory framework, in particular the emissions trading scheme, provides strong incentives

for investment in clean power technologies, including clean coal. The EU is currently looking at options for extending its emissions trading scheme, to include carbon dioxide capture and storage from 2012, and possibly before. The EU will also strengthen its research and development funding and efforts; under the EU's 7th Framework Programme up to € 400 million will be directed towards projects in the fields of sustainable fossil fuels, in particular clean coal and CCS, with funds for the EU's scientific and research community to collaborate with their counterparts in non-EU countries.

The United States, in partnership with its government steering group member countries and the private sector, will build FutureGen, the United States first near-zero emissions fossil fuel plant, by 2012; President Bush's policies provide strong incentives for investment in clean power technologies, including advanced coal; \$1 billion in tax credits has already been allocated to spur billions of dollar in private investment in nine advanced clean coal facilities and another \$650 million will be awarded this year, culminating in additional builds; the United States has established a federal loan guarantee program to drive investment in advanced technologies, including advanced coal. In addition, the United States will support roughly \$200 million for carbon capture and storage, including field tests demonstrating different techniques for capturing and storing carbon dioxide emissions underground; any risks to human health and the environment resulting from underground injection of CO₂ will be evaluated, and a regulatory framework will be developed.

Developing, Deploying and Commercializing Renewable and Alternative Energies:

The European Union has set a binding target of a 20 percent share of renewable energies in overall EU energy consumption and a minimum binding 10 percent share of biofuels in overall EU transport fuel consumption to be achieved by 2020. These targets are part of the Energy Action Plan adopted by the European Council in March 2007 ensuring a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 20 percent by 2020 compared to 1990.

The United States has advanced plans to achieve a 20 percent reduction in gasoline consumption by 2017; this can be achieved by requiring the use of 35 billion gallons of renewable and alternative fuels (replacing 15 percent of projected gasoline consumption in 2017) and by increasing fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles (replacing 5 percent of projected gasoline consumption by 2017); President Bush's plan will help stop the growth of carbon dioxide emissions from passenger and light duty vehicles in the United States.

Promoting Energy Efficiency

The European Union will increase energy efficiency so as to achieve the objective of saving 20 percent of energy consumption compared to projections for 2020. For newly sold passenger cars the EU intends to take measures to ensure average emissions of 120 g CO₂/km by 2012.

The United States will improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of each Federal agency, through reduction of energy intensity, by 30 percent by 2015, using 2003 as a baseline.

Key Priorities:

To advance our common goals, we have identified the following priorities for a transatlantic partnership on clean energy and climate change, bearing in mind our commitments under the UNFCCC, G8, International Energy Agency and other frameworks and processes:

- (1) Advance commercial deployment of clean coal and carbon capture and storage technologies, including through the CSLF; advanced, clean, and near zero emissions coal technologies are critical in tackling global CO₂ emissions, given coal's importance in meeting current and future energy needs for developed and developing countries; development of a regulatory framework for CCS;
- (2) Improve energy efficiency, especially in the transportation sector and buildings and appliances;
- (3) Research, develop, deploy and commercialize second-generation biofuels; overcome barriers to the use of renewable energy sources including through the development of international standards;
- (4) Identify opportunities to jointly advance as many methane recovery-and-use projects as possible.

Work Action Plan:

To implement these transatlantic priorities, we commit to the following actions:

- (1) Provide policy incentives to reduce the cost and other barriers to full commercialization of advanced coal technologies; on carbon capture and storage, develop bilateral cooperation in particular on regulating risks of capture, transport and storage, and allocation of responsibility for any leakage; assess availability of geological formations suitable for long term CO₂-storage, discuss international minimum-safety requirements and site-selection criteria for the protection of the climate and surrounding environment; cooperate to develop adequate monitoring and remediation techniques; begin discussion of how to define 'carbon-capture-ready' coal fired plants to facilitate eventual market adoption of carbon sequestering plants; work together to gain firm commitments from advanced developing countries to deploy clean coal technology units.
- (2) Implement the Energy Efficiency Work Plan; ensure proper implementation of the EU-U.S. ENERGY STAR Agreement; discuss potential to extend the EU-U.S. ENERGY STAR Agreement to other product categories; discuss possible cooperation on the use of minimum efficiency requirements; cooperate on energy efficiency in buildings, and discuss potential for joint efforts to promote energy efficiency in third countries to enhance our mutual energy security;
- (3) Develop a set of compatible specifications for pure biofuels (both for bioethanol and biodiesel) by the end of 2007 that will facilitate international trade and increase use of alternative fuels, taking into account existing standards; work to promote strategies for sustainable biomass cultivation, including standards as appropriate; establish a roadmap before summer for developing compatible standards for biofuels, engaging the private sector, standards organizations, and the government and taking full account of existing and planned biofuels standards; continue analysis of biofuel resource assessment, as was discussed at the EU-U.S. Second Biofuels Workshop; present the results on economic factors and environmental impacts of biofuels development; and exchange information on our respective research agendas on second

- generation biofuel sources with the goal of accelerating further commercialization of biofuels;
- (4) Hold an international renewable energy conference at the ministerial level in Washington in March 2008 with the goal of advancing the development and commercialization of renewable energy systems, including second generation biofuels and solar energy;
 - (5) Seek to develop a joint Methane-to-Markets work plan before the next Summit to provide inventory opportunities, identify collaborative activities, specific goals and emission reduction targets, and time lines to advance methane recovery and use project development.
 - (6) Explore the most effective means to promote energy efficiency internationally, taking into account the work of the International Energy Agency and the G8 Gleneagles Dialogue, including the development of new international strategies on energy efficiency.

To better understand the effectiveness of the wide range of policy instruments, the EU will host with the United States this year a climate and clean energy policy and measures forum, composed of senior policy officials, to discuss the policy and technical aspects of different market mechanisms, including but not limited to emissions trading, taxation, and incentives, and other regulatory programs, public-private partnerships, and technology initiatives.

We also commit under the Montreal Protocol to seek to speed up the recovery of the ozone layer by accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs. We will weigh the impact of our proposals on climate change and energy efficiency. In working together toward our shared goal of speeding ozone recovery, we recognize that the Clean Development Mechanism impacts emissions of ozone-depleting substances.

We note that our domestic efforts, while important, will not by themselves be sufficient to reverse the significant growth trend in global greenhouse gases. We, therefore, will work together to unleash markets that will speed up the transfer of clean energy technology to developing countries. We reaffirm the goal that our Leaders set at the G8 Summit at Sea Island in 2004 to reduce barriers to the international flow of goods and materials for recycling and remanufacturing, recycled and remanufactured products, and cleaner, more efficient technologies, consistent with existing environmental and trade obligations and frameworks.

We will strengthen cooperation on the global phase-out of leaded gasoline and promotion of low-sulfur diesel through the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles. We also will reinforce our cooperation on hydrogen notably through IPHE (the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy). We will also continue our ongoing collaboration on nuclear power through the Generation-IV International Forum and International Nuclear Energy Research Initiative.

We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation on global observation and will continue to exercise leadership in the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), including working to strengthen weather observing, climate and air quality monitoring, and forecasting for human health, global disaster preparedness and monitoring, and drought monitoring and forecasting. We encourage participation in the November 30, 2007 Fourth Earth Observation Ministerial in Capetown, South Africa.

Transatlantic Research:

We will reach agreement on transatlantic research cooperation under the bilateral EU-U.S. Science and Technology Agreement, including: (1) enhance existing research programs in energy and environment collaboration in areas of mutual interest, and if appropriate, revision

of relevant implementing arrangements, as needed; (2) examine international grant funding mechanisms with the aim of eliminating obstacles and develop practical proposals to broadly publicize research solicitations and better coordinate, where appropriate, research activities through mechanisms, such as coordinated calls for transatlantic clean energy research; (3) work to more closely coordinate research agendas on both sides of the Atlantic in line with the priorities identified at the 9th February 2007 meeting of the EU-U.S. High Level Joint Consultative Group on S&T.

Cooperation should focus on:

- (1) Second generation biofuels;
- (2) Hydrogen/fuel cells (e.g. research on novel materials for H₂ production and storage and for advanced fuel cell components; pre-normative research in hydrogen technologies);
- (3) CO₂ capture and storage;
- (4) Energy efficiency;
- (5) Renewable energy technologies of mutual interest;
- (6) Coordination and collaboration on global carbon cycle research and carbon observation and monitoring systems.

Increasing Energy Security:

We committed in Vienna in 2006 to a set of agreed principles to increase transparency in global energy markets, enhance energy efficiency, diversify the energy mix and ensure the security of critical energy infrastructure. Today, we reaffirm those principles and commit to conducting a periodic stocktaking of our performance in abiding by and implementing them.

Key to maintaining affordable and secure supplies of energy to power our economic growth and facilitate the development of new technologies is sound management of our existing energy mix. The security of the energy supplies of the European Union and the United States are directly impacted by actors and events beyond our borders as well as by our own regulatory and technology mixes. We must, therefore, intensify our cooperation to:

- ▶ carry out our commitment to the G8 Global Energy Security Principles developed at St. Petersburg in 2006, including: effective market access, and investment in all stages of the energy supply chain; open, transparent, efficient and competitive markets for energy production, supply, use, transmission and transit services; transparent, equitable, stable and effective legal and regulatory frameworks, including the obligation to uphold contracts, to generate sufficient, sustainable international investments upstream and downstream; energy saving and energy efficiency measures;
- ▶ achieve greater diversification of energy types, sources, and routes of European energy supplies, in particular encourage new infrastructure for utilizing the oil and gas reserves of the Caspian region and Central Asia. We encourage the International Energy Agency to continue to take an active role in advancing this objective;
- ▶ ensure there is an open and transparent international marketplace for trade and investment in energy resources;
- ▶ facilitate, through bilateral efforts or multilateral venues such as the International Energy Agency, the integration of the new major consuming countries (e.g. China and India) into the global energy marketplace;

- ▶ strengthen cooperation through partnerships and networks in particular with emerging economies, focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energies, low-emission energy technologies, notably CCS, and
- ▶ improve the security and resiliency of global energy networks and the physical security of critical energy infrastructure.

Tapping the Expertise of the Private Sector

We will convene a public-private meeting, composed of our senior government officials, business leaders, and scientific and technical experts, focusing on the priority areas identified in this statement. Options available to us include, but are not limited to, inviting CEOs to participate in our ongoing high-level dialogues, holding a public-private sector event associated with the proposed international renewables conference, and/or convening a stand-alone meeting. We will also use the EU-U.S. Energy Technology CEO forum that was launched by the U.S. Department of State and the German Foreign Ministry in March as a foundation for this effort.

5. 2007 EU-US SUMMIT ECONOMIC PROGRESS REPORT

(...)

Energy Security and Climate Change

At the EU-U.S. Summit in June 2006, we agreed to reinforce our **strategic energy cooperation** to support diversification of energy sources and supplies, promote market-based energy security policies, secure our energy infrastructure, speed development of new lower-pollution and lower-carbon technologies, and accelerate investment in cleaner, more efficient use of fossil sources and renewable sources. To monitor and guide this process, we agreed to conduct an **annual strategic review** of EU-U.S. energy cooperation. The European Union and the United States also agreed at the Summit to establish a **High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development (HLD)** to focus on the nexus between climate, energy, and environmental cooperation.

The European Union and the United States held the first HLD in Helsinki October 24-25, and strategic energy cooperation meetings in Washington October 26-27, to act upon our Summit commitments and further advance the 2005 G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action for Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development. At the HLD the two sides committed to further cooperative work on promoting commercial deployment of clean coal and other technologies, promoting energy efficiency in transportation and buildings and appliances, supporting research and development of second generation biofuels, and developing a roadmap towards compatible biofuel specifications.

At the October 26-27 strategic energy cooperation meeting, participants produced workplans on biofuels and energy efficiency, agreed to explore cooperation on clean coal and carbon sequestration, and discussed collaboration to strengthen energy security policies in third countries such as China, India, and Ukraine. Both sides began to implement the biofuels and energy efficiency workplans and carry out specific activities regarding third countries.

Among specific undertakings, we jointly finalized renewal of the EU/U.S. ENERGY STAR agreement (December 28, 2006), reviewed our respective biofuels R&D agendas and examined

opportunities for collaboration under the EU-U.S. Science and Technology Agreement (February 9, 2007), discussed progress during the Washington visit of the Head of private office of the European Commissioner for Energy (February 9), cosponsored with the International Energy Agency (IEA) a major conference on gas transit issues in Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus (February 14), held a second biofuels working group meeting (February 26), participated together with industry and NGOs in a joint EU-CEN conference on international biofuels standards (February 26-28), and began to exchange information on efficient buildings.

In the framework of the visit of the European Commissioner for Energy to the United States, we held the first strategic energy cooperation annual review on March 26 at which we discussed progress on our biofuels and energy efficiency cooperation, examined ways to intensify our work on clean coal and carbon capture and storage, energy security and diversification of energy supplies, and reviewed possibilities to work together to strengthen key third country energy security policies, particularly in Ukraine, the Caspian and Central Asia.

In addition, EU and U.S. climate experts met March 27 to work together on an implementation plan to continue to guide follow-through on the Helsinki HLD outcomes in the future and to begin to explore the broader principles that shape our cooperation on climate and clean energy.

(...)

6. 2007 EU-US SUMMIT POLITICAL PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction

The European Union and the United States continue to put our strategic partnership to work. During the past year, we have concentrated on specific issues, and our effective dialogue – often in advance of policy formulation – has led to convergence on key issues. We can identify genuine progress in several areas, including those targeted by the joint declarations adopted at the 2006 Summit:

Key Accomplishments

Regional issues

In a world of global threats and challenges our security and prosperity increasingly depend on an **effective multilateral system**. The United Nations Charter is an essential pillar for international relations, and the EU and the US will strive for a strong, credible and effective United Nations. We will not allow it to be paralyzed or fail to fulfil necessary tasks. Strengthening the United Nations and equipping it to fulfil its responsibilities is a joint priority. In this regard we will continue to support the ongoing reform process of the organisation.

We have collaborated actively, including in Geneva, on priorities for the Human Rights Council, such as mandate review, agenda setting, universal periodic review and a Special Session on Sudan. We successfully cosponsored UN 3rd Committee resolutions on Belarus, Burma, Iran and North Korea. The U.S. has supported the active participation of the European Community in various bodies of the Peace Building Commission (PBC).

Building on our strong collaboration over the previous year, we agreed on specific actions we would undertake to **promote peace, human rights, democracy and the rule of law worldwide**. We held intense exchanges on countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Burma, Cambodia,

China, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Nepal. We are convinced that the effectiveness of our efforts is amplified by delivering the same political messages and coordinating possible actions.

We have seen a period of rising tension in the **Middle East**, including the war between Israel and Lebanon in summer 2006, Iran's continued defiance of the international community in pursuit of its nuclear program and continuing Iranian and Syrian interference in Lebanon and Iraq. But we have also witnessed promising change with the formation of a Palestinian National Unity Government, the relaunch of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative and security and reconstruction developments in Iraq. The European Union and the United States have held regular consultations, in particular within the United Nations framework and the Quartet, on the evolving situation.

We welcomed the EU initiative to launch, under the auspices of the Quartet, a Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) to provide direct emergency assistance to the **Palestinian** people and the €240 million contribution so far into TIM from the European Union. We supported Palestinian President Abbas' efforts to form a Palestinian government whose policy and actions reflect the Quartet principles and will continue to closely evaluate the performance of the new Palestinian National Unity Government in that respect. We also worked to promote implementation of the Security Sector Transformation (SST) plan, including implementation of the November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access through the EU Border Assistance Mission to the Rafah crossing, and efforts to improve the Karni/al-Mintar commercial crossings between Gaza and Israel.

The European Union and the United States helped bring an end to the summer 2006 war between **Lebanon** and Israel, aided in particular by substantial European Union member state contributions to the UNIFIL peacekeeping force in Lebanon. We worked together to provide significant humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict, enabling the bulk of the hundreds of thousands displaced to return to their homes and begin to rebuild their lives. We welcomed the \$7.6 billion in pledges of international assistance for Lebanon made at the Paris III donors' conference in January 2007, including \$770 million in loans and grants from the United States and \$2.9 billion in loans and grants from the European Union (\$535 million from the European Community budget). We called on Syria to end its interference in Lebanon and urged full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1680 and 1701. We urged **Syria** to end destabilising activities and play a more constructive role in Lebanon, Iraq, and the Palestinian territories, as well as to reconsider its relations with Iran; we issued statements calling for the release of Syrian political prisoners.

The European Union and the United States have urged the government of **Egypt** to proceed with the fundamental political and constitutional reforms it announced. For example, we have specifically called on the Egyptian Government to fulfill the aspirations of the Egyptian people for democracy and meet the standards of openness, transparency, and reform that they have set for themselves. U.S. bilateral assistance aims to strengthen Egyptian efforts at political and economic reform. The EU, in its joint European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan with Egypt, has made greater participation in political life, an enhanced role for civil society, and greater respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms a policy priority. Support for the implementation of the Action Plan is a main priority of the EU's financial and technical assistance to Egypt.

The European Union and the United States have worked closely together at every stage to address the concerns raised by **Iran's** nuclear program. We offered Iran a set of far-reaching

incentives to cease its domestic uranium enrichment activity. Given Iran's rejection of that offer, we successfully led efforts in the UN Security Council to pass resolutions 1737 and 1747, which call for Iran to suspend uranium enrichment and negotiate on the basis of the aforementioned incentives package, and which impose financial, travel, and other restrictions to pressure the Iranian regime to comply with its international obligations. We have implemented those resolutions, and have taken additional steps to further encourage Iran to cooperate with the international community.

To support the economic reconstruction of **Iraq**, 19 European Union members have concluded agreements to forgive from 80% (Paris Club terms) to 100% of Iraqi official debt, and the United States forgave 100% of its outstanding official debt to Iraq. The European Union and the United States actively engaged in ongoing support for the Iraq Compact process. The United States and twenty-five of 27 EU members have established relations with the Iraqi Government, and 16 (along with the European Commission) have set up resident missions. Total U.S. reconstruction assistance since 2003 approaches \$25 billion, while the European Union and its member states have provided a total of €13.6 billion – including debt relief – to date and will make further contributions in support of the Iraqi people and the International Compact for Iraq. The European Union is also conducting a successful Rule of Law training program called EUJUST LEX for Iraqi officials.

The European Union and the United States continue to be among the primary contributors to **Afghanistan** reconstruction, through participation in the Joint Coordinating and Monitoring Board and in support of the Afghan government. At the January 26 NATO informal foreign ministerial, the United States announced a request for \$11.8 billion over two years for Afghanistan. In December 2006, the European Union completed its pledge to contribute €1 billion for Afghan reconstruction between 2002 and 2006. For the same period, the combined contribution from the EU budget and by EU Member States to Afghanistan reached €3.7 billion. The EU's new budget includes another € 610 million for 2007-2010. The EU has been a main donor to the Afghan National Police, helping cover the salaries of some 62,000 police officers with a contribution of €135 million so far. In February, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council approved the deployment of a police training mission to Afghanistan that will initially include 160 officers and other experts. The EU police mission will build on the efforts of key partners that have trained extensively over 18,000 officers and non-commissioned officers over the past few years. In December 2006, the European Union approved €10.6 million for the support of provincial governance projects by Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) led by or with considerable participation of EU member states. The U.S. maintains about 500 police trainers and advisors around the country, in addition to U.S. military police. The United States has trained more than 70,000 members of the Afghan National Police since the fall of the Taliban. Over 50,000 members of the Afghan National Police have completed specialized training courses in areas such as firearms, crowd control, investigative techniques, and domestic violence. The United States has also trained more than 4600 Afghan National Auxiliary Police in ten-day courses to provide them essential skills as they help the Afghan National Police fight an urgent battle in southern and eastern Afghanistan against Taliban fighters. As part of a major pay and rank reform program, the United States and international partners are helping the Afghan National Police leadership build a merit-based leadership and discipline structure to assure that the police become widely respected public servants and officers of a society based on the rule of law.

The European Union and the United States have consistently supported UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari's approach to determining the future status of **Kosovo** and his timeline for successfully concluding the Kosovo status process. We are committed to working towards furthering NATO-EU contacts to ensure smooth planning for Kosovo's post-status security. Pending a status resolution, we have worked within the international community to support UNMIK efforts under UNSCR 1244 to build stability and meaningful self-government in Kosovo. Having cooperated through the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe since 1999 to build peace and prosperity in the region, the EU and the US have been working together closely to ensure the successful transition of the Stability Pact framework to regional ownership under the auspices of the South Eastern European Cooperation Process (SEECP). We have been united in the view that successful resolution of Kosovo's status will help accelerate the region's Euro-Atlantic integration

We have been engaged with **Russia** on many international issues, such as energy security, relationships with neighboring countries, and cooperation in multilateral fora. We have participated in dialogue with Russia on many political matters, including democratic freedoms and the need for the application of the rule of law, an independent judiciary, human rights, a free and independent media, and a strong civil society.

We have welcomed and supported democratic and economic reforms in **Ukraine**, and have assisted its efforts to achieve better energy efficiency and effective energy independence.

We have closely cooperated on **Belarus** to support democratization, local civil society and other democratic forces. We urged the authorities of Belarus to release all political prisoners and to stop all human rights' abuses. To encourage positive political change on behalf of the people of Belarus, we have imposed further travel restrictions and targeted financial sanctions against members of Lukashenko's regime. We have issued coordinated statements on political arrests, local elections, energy security and persecution of independent NGOs.

We have achieved increased cooperation and a unified approach in our efforts towards peaceful solutions of separatist conflicts in Moldova and the **South Caucasus**, which would assure these states' territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders. We have been cooperating inside the Minsk Group, jointly promoting the set of Basic Principles.

Together we have supported democratic and economic reforms, human rights, freedom of expression, and the rule of law in **Central Asia**. We have promoted regional cooperation to advance security, prosperity and stability. We have shown our support for strengthening democratic institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. We worked with the government of Uzbekistan to enter into an effective dialogue on human rights, and we have sought to establish an independent international investigation into the tragic events of Andijon.

Throughout the year, we have consulted on **Latin America**, and in this context also on **Cuba**, including the prospect for democracy in the future. In mid-2006, the EU renewed its Common Position on Cuba. Meanwhile, the United States released the second report of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba (CAFC). On **Haiti**, we have worked together to support a strong MINUSTAH presence in Haiti, to maintain high-levels of international assistance and financial support for Government of Haiti development priorities, and to improve donor coordination for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The European Union members and the United States worked closely together to ensure adoption of UNSCR 1706, and to make progress on transition to a more robust hybrid UN/AU peacekeeping force, as major steps towards ending the atrocities in **Sudan**. As demonstrated by

the high-level EU and U.S. participation in the February 2007 **Liberia** Partners Forum, we are committed to ensuring the success of important infrastructure, community reintegration, and good governance initiatives in Liberia. Working with the UN and other key donors, the European Union and United States played an integral role in helping the people of the **Democratic Republic of Congo** conduct successful presidential elections, including with the EU's successful ESDP mission to help ensure stability during the elections. We joined in supporting the renewal of the MONUC mandate, due to expire on April 15. Our targeted restrictive measures have exerted pressure on regime leaders responsible for the critical political and economic situation in **Zimbabwe**. We have consulted extensively on **Somalia**, and provided substantial resources to help support political dialogue between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and key Somali stakeholders, development of effective governance and security institutions, and rapid deployment of African peace support mission. We are also seeking to coordinate our efforts in terms of support to African Union capacity-building including for peace keeping and further development of the African Standby Force.

The European Union and the United States successfully cosponsored 3rd Committee (human rights and social affairs) resolutions on **Burma** and the **DPRK**. The European Union used the ASEM Summit to press the Burmese regime to adopt a more inclusive political process and introduce a timetable for democratic reform. We continue intense exchanges on Burma at all levels.

Together the EU and the US continued to support global efforts to mitigate the impacts of important **infectious diseases** and through the Global Fund to provide financing in support of developing countries' efforts to fight the spread of **HIV/AIDS tuberculosis, malaria, and polio**.

Security

The U.S. Coordinator for **Reconstruction and Stabilization** has consulted with EU interlocutors in Brussels and Berlin. In addition to high-level consultations, we have organized technical consultations to implement coordination on cross-training, information sharing, and other areas of crisis management. The European Union participated as an observer in Multinational Experiment 4 (MNE-4) crises simulations led by U.S. Joint Forces Command, and is currently participating as an observer in MNE5.

The United States and (European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit) Eurojust concluded an agreement to **facilitate cooperation, coordination, and the exchange of information between investigators and prosecutors**, including the posting of a U.S. Liaison Prosecutor to Eurojust. We continue to make progress toward ratification and entry into force of the EU-U.S. **Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Agreements** and the implementing instruments between EU member states and the U.S.

Continuing to take steps to strengthen the **security of our borders**, expert-level discussions have begun between the European Union and the United States on mutual recognition of the EU Authorized Economic Operator provisions and the U.S. Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism. We have produced a Joint Threat Assessment for Weapons of Mass Effect and will work to disseminate this to the World Customs Organization for its members. A pilot project at the Port of Southhampton has been undertaken under the U.S. Secure Freight Initiative to further improve detection and response capabilities for high risk container traffic.

The European Union and the United States concluded an interim agreement on the processing of **Passenger Name Record** data in October 2006. Recognizing a mutual interest in the alignment of our aviation security efforts, we are studying the comparability of our airport assessment programs.

The European Union and the United States continued to improve procedures for information sharing and pro-actively implement Financial Action Task Force's Special Recommendations, including by enforcing cash declaration regulations for travellers and by engaging private sector financial institutions to develop partnerships to improve implementation of asset freeze measures. We continued to exchange information and best practices in expert-level discussions. Conferences on **terrorism finance and money laundering** issues were held with sanctions implementers (September, 2006 and April, 2007), analysts (October, 2006), and prosecutors and investigators (December, 2006). We are working together to develop a public outreach statement on the issues of fairness and transparency in the implementation of sanctions regimes.

We have engaged in detailed discussions on the **legal framework governing the common fight against terrorism**, and have agreed that the fight against terrorism must be conducted with respect to the rule of law and in conformity with international law including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

In our critical efforts to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), we continued to coordinate and strengthen our individual and collective efforts to implement the **disarmament and nonproliferation** regimes and reaffirmed the value of continuing consultations in this area. These consultations have continued in a variety of ways and fora, including the dialogue on verification and compliance that was established between the EU and the U.S. at the 2005 Summit, endorsed at the 2006 summit, and continues to be productive. Our last such meeting was held in Brussels last Fall, and yet a third meeting has been scheduled in early June of this year as we continue to discuss verification and compliance challenges and identify opportunities for joint initiatives.

The European Union and the United States affirmed their commitment to strengthening the **Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty** (NPT). Both have shown their full support for the Additional Protocol (AP): The EU AP is in force and the U.S. recently passed implementing legislation.

29 April 2007 marked the 10th anniversary of the **Chemical Weapons Convention**, a unique treaty that requires irreversible destruction of an entire class of WMD under international verification and within specific timelines. The European Union and the United States welcome progress that has been made in the destruction of CW-stockpiles and recommit themselves to strengthening the treaty and working towards fulfilment of all treaty obligations by all states parties.

We worked to make the **UN Security Council resolution 1540** an effective tool to prevent the proliferation of dangerous materials and WMD to both state and non-state actors. In close co-operation with the 1540 Committee, we have supported full implementation of the Resolution including in the context of OSCE and ARF.

The European Union and the United States worked together to obtain the UN Security Council's unanimous adoption of UNSCRs 1718, 1737, and 1747 which require the Democratic **People's Republic of Korea** (DPRK) and **Iran**, respectively, to abide by the will of the international community. We took actions to implement the requirements set out in the

resolutions to ensure we did not aid DPRK and Iran nuclear and ballistic missile programs through supply, financing, or other support.

Due in large measure to EU and U.S. cooperation, the Sixth **Biological Weapons Convention** (BWC) Review Conference in November 2006 was a success, with parties agreeing to an intersessional work programme 2007 – 2010 which will focus in 2007 on ways and means to enhance national implementation, including enforcement of national legislation and regional cooperation. The Parties also agreed to establish an Implementation Support Unit to provide administrative support as well as to prepare documentation and serve as a clearing-house for reporting of confidence building measures, including a secure website on CBMs.

We also worked together to promote consensus within the CD on a work programme, in particular on commencing negotiations in the Conference of Disarmament of a **Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty** banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons.

Iraq – Declaration by the Presidency on the launching of the International Compact

Brussels, 3 May 2007

The International Compact with Iraq, launched in Charm el-Cheikh on 3 May 2007, is a five-year plan that aims to help Iraq on the path towards peace, sound governance and economic reconstruction, including a debt relief package that will reduce Iraq's external debt by almost thirty billion dollars. The EU commended the Iraqi government for the ambitious commitments it has made with this Compact.

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EU ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPACT WITH IRAQ

The European Union warmly welcomes the launching of the International Compact with Iraq in Sharm El Sheikh on 3 May 2007. It reaffirms its strong support for the democratically-elected Government of Iraq and the Iraqi people in the challenging circumstances facing the country, and for their efforts to bring peace, security, stability and prosperity to an independent, unified, democratic, federal and sovereign Iraq founded on the principles of freedom and equality. It encourages the Iraqi Government to continue its efforts to promote national reconciliation, rule of law and restoration of public order, and reiterates its support for these efforts. It notes the responsibility of the international community, and in particular the States in the region, to support and promote these efforts.

It commends the Iraqi Government for the ambitious commitments it has made in this Compact for promoting reforms in political, security, economic and social fields and underlines its appreciation for the assistance by the UN to Iraq in the Compact process. The implementation of these commitments will be central in developing cooperation between Iraq and all its international partners. Progress towards these targets will help to further enhance the EU's engagement with Iraq. The EU reaffirms its strong support for a central role of the UN in Iraq.

The EU is ready to continue to develop a close co-operation and partnership with Iraq in accordance with the priorities indicated in the International Compact and Iraq's National Development Strategy. Our main objective is to help Iraq implement the ambitious programme set out in the Compact and ensure that all Iraqis can benefit from Iraq's resources. The EU underlines the importance it attaches to Iraqi leadership, ownership and inclusiveness of the Compact process, and to the broad involvement of the international community, including the active participation of Iraq's neighbours and partners in the region.

The EU warmly welcomes the opening of negotiations on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Iraq and looks forward to timely continuation of these negotiations and the establishment of a close contractual relationship.

With reference to the Compact priorities the EU intends to:

Endorse a model of democratic government that overcomes divisions by supporting initiatives to advance national reconciliation, the constitutional review, the holding of local elections and by providing capacity building support to the Council of Representatives. Specific attention will be paid to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Contribute to strengthening the rule of law and to promoting human rights *inter alia* through capacity building initiatives such as the Integrated Rule of Law Mission EUJUST LEX.

Establish contractual relations for the first time through the negotiation of a Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Advance political dialogue with Iraq at all levels, in continuation of the September 2005 political dialogue Declaration between the EU and Iraq.

Deliver assistance on the basis of mutual commitments.

Continue support to the Iraqi people through assisting Iraqi authorities in improving the delivery of basic services, in alleviating their daily difficulties and in enhancing human development.

Help strengthen administrative capacities through promoting the development of an effective and transparent administrative framework at central and local levels.

Support economic integration of Iraq through the negotiation and conclusion of a Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the implementation of GSP preferences, support for Iraqi WTO accession and targeted technical assistance in areas related to economic recovery.

Support the establishment of a comprehensive approach towards the dire situation of refugees in Iraq and in the neighbouring regions, building on the outcome of the International Conference in Geneva on 17/18 April 2007.

The overall financial assistance by the European Community and EU Member States since 2003 has amounted to 14.2 billion euros (including grants, debt relief and loans). European financial assistance in 2007 is anticipated to reach 1.8 billion euros (including grants, debt relief and loans).

The EU looks forward to close cooperation with the Iraqi Government and its international partners in advancing the Government's programme based on the commitments made.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Brussels, 14-15 May 2007

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Security agreement with the European Space Agency

The Council authorised the presidency, assisted by the high representative and in full association with the Commission, to open negotiations on a security agreement with the European Space Agency.

Financing of ESDP operations

The Council adopted a decision establishing a mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications (Athena) (8211/07). The decision codifies the original decision of 23 February 2004 establishing Athena, notably in the light of subsequent amendments to that decision.

Strengthening African capabilities – Recommendations

The Council approved recommendations from the Political and Security Committee for the implementation of proposals for action to strengthen the EU's partnership with Africa in the resolution of conflicts, as well as an action plan for the implementation of these proposals.

The proposals will be implemented in accordance with the principles of African ownership and of partnership with other members of the international community, in particular the United Nations.

Kosovo – EU planning team – Extension of mandate

The Council adopted a joint action extending a mandate set by joint action 2006/304/CFSP on the establishment of an EU planning team (EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in Kosovo in the field of the rule of law and possible other areas (8543/07).

EUPT Kosovo is aimed, in the context of the process on Kosovo's future status, at taking forward planning and action to ensure a smooth transition between selected tasks of the United Nations mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and a possible EU crisis management operation.

The joint action extends the current mandate to 1 September 2007 and sets at EUR 43,96 million the financial reference amount to cover expenditure during the period from 1 June to 1 September 2007.

EU military capabilities – Progress report

The Council took note of a progress report on the development of EU military capabilities and approved its transmission to NATO for information purposes.

The document provides an update on activities undertaken since October 2006 to improve EU military capabilities and the capability development process. It is produced every six months between reviews of the progress catalogue.

A central element of capability development is the 2010 headline goal process (HLG 2010) with its main documents, the requirements catalogue 2005 (RC 05), force catalogue 2007 (FC 07) and progress catalogue (PC).

(...)

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Operation ‘EUFOR RD Congo’

The Council took note of a report summarising strategic lessons learnt from ‘EUFOR RD Congo’, the EU operation which facilitated the holding of the first free and fair elections in over 40 years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Operation EUFOR RD Congo was conducted following a request from the United Nations for support to the UN mission for DRC (MONUC) during the Congolese election process in 2006.

(...)

BLACK SEA REGION – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council held a brief exchange of views on a communication from the Commission on a new regional cooperation initiative for the Black Sea region.

It adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council welcomed the Commission’s Communication “Black Sea Synergy – A new Regional Cooperation Initiative”. The Council underlined that following the accession of two Black Sea littoral states, Bulgaria and Romania, the EU’s interest in furthering stability and prosperity in the Black Sea area has become even greater.

The Council looked forward to further examining the Communication and invited the future Presidencies and the European Commission to continue work on an enhanced and coherent EU engagement in and with the Black Sea area, particularly in the framework of a strengthened European Neighbourhood Policy and building on synergies with regional bodies and initiatives. The aim should be to intensify regional cooperation in sectors of cross-border relevance such as energy, the environment, transport, telecommunications, science and technology, freedom, justice and security, as well as democracy, human rights promotion, respect for international law and civil society cooperation.

Given the strategic importance of the Black Sea area to the EU, the Council invites the Commission to carry out a review during the first half of 2008 of the development of the Black Sea Synergy Initiative, as a basis for further consideration by the Council of its engagement towards the region as a whole.’

(...)

UZBEKISTAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted a common position renewing visa restrictions against eight Uzbek officials. Such restrictions were introduced following events at Andijan in May 2005. The restrictions will be reviewed after six months, at the same time as the arms embargo against Uzbekistan.

The EU and Uzbekistan held the first round of a human rights dialogue in Tashkent on 8 and 9 May, following a second round of expert talks on the events at Andijan, held in early April. EU restrictions on technical meetings were lifted in November.

The Council also adopted the following conclusions:

- ‘1. The Council remains seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan.
2. The Council learnt with great concern of the sentences of imprisonment passed on the human rights defenders Ms Umida Niazova and Ms Gulbahor Turaeva. It took note of the revised verdict against Ms Niazova of 8 May and her release. The Council calls upon the Uzbek authorities to release Ms Turaeva and other detained human rights defenders and to lift restrictions of movement against Ms Niazova. The Council calls upon Uzbekistan to respect fully its commitments to international human rights standards.
3. The Council welcomes the Uzbek confirmation that full cooperation with the ICRC will be resumed soon and expects swift implementation.
4. The EU reiterates its readiness to pursue a comprehensive and regular dialogue with Uzbekistan on human rights. In this context, the Council welcomes the fact that a first round of a human rights dialogue between the EU and Uzbekistan took place in Tashkent on 8-9 May 2007. It appreciates the readiness of the Uzbek side to engage in this dialogue. The EU looks forward to its continuation in an open and constructive manner with a view to achieving concrete and sustained results.
5. The Council also welcomes the holding of a second round of expert talks on the Andijan events in Tashkent on 2 and 3 April 2007. The Council, nonetheless, recalls its position set out in previous Council Conclusions.
6. The Council recalls its Common Position of 13 November 2006, lifting restrictions on technical meetings, and extending the arms embargo for another 12 months and the visa restrictions for another 6 months. The Council decided to renew the visa restrictions for individuals listed in the annex of the relevant Common Position for another 6 months.
7. The Council decided to keep these measures under review on the basis of the criteria set out in previous Council conclusions, taking into account the actions of the Uzbek Government in the area of human rights, including the results of the human rights dialogue. The Council urges Uzbekistan to implement fully its international obligations relating to human rights, rule of law and fundamental freedoms, and stands ready to consider the lifting of restrictions if the Uzbek government engages constructively in this respect.’

SUDAN

The Council reviewed the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan and took stock of recent developments, in particular as regards the funding of the African Union mission in Sudan (AMIS).

It approved without discussion a draft decision on the replenishment of the African Peace Facility, using part of the reserve of the ninth European development fund, which should allow

for an additional EUR 40 million to be granted to AMIS. It also adopted a draft decision to create the necessary legal basis for EU Member States to make voluntary bilateral contributions in support of the objectives of the Peace Facility. The decisions are due to be adopted by the ACP-EU council of ministers at its meeting in Brussels on 25 May.

Defence ministers also addressed support to AMIS during their working lunch.

SOMALIA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council remains concerned about the situation in Somalia. In particular, it expresses its dismay over the humanitarian situation in Mogadishu and other parts of South and Central Somalia and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people with limited access to life-saving relief. The Council reiterates the obligation of all parties to comply with international humanitarian law and urges the Somali authorities to do their utmost to remove any obstacle to the free movement of aid and humanitarian relief workers into and throughout the country. It calls upon international donors to provide greater assistance for humanitarian and reconstruction work and upon the wider region to help facilitate the cross-border provision of aid to Somalia. The Council acknowledges the efforts of civil society actors to alleviate the humanitarian crisis. The EU will step up urgent humanitarian assistance to the population, including internally displaced people.

2. The Council welcomes the talks between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Ethiopia and the Hawiya leadership committee. The Council encourages all parties to show continued restraint and to consolidate the cessation of hostilities, paving the way for comprehensive cease-fire arrangements, including mechanisms for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. The EU remains ready to assist in this process if requested.

3. The Council condemns the use of force by all sides and emphasises that the problems of Somalia can only be solved by political means, building on the Transitional Federal Charter. The EU reiterates the need for a genuine political process, as set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1744 (2007). In particular, the EU renews its urgent appeal to the Transitional Federal Institutions to engage in an inclusive, meaningful and consensual dialogue involving all sections of Somali society. The Council expects the Transitional Federal Institutions to convene the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC) as soon as possible. It reiterates its readiness to support the Congress financially and otherwise, provided that the TFG will ensure an all inclusive and transparent process.

4. The Council reaffirms its support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in creating the conditions for the stabilisation of the country and an early withdrawal of Ethiopian forces. The EU is committed to support AMISOM's planning and operational capacity, including the potential development of its role in the monitoring and verification of a cease-fire. It calls on all Somali actors to work with AMISOM to help achieve these aims. Recalling the EU's and Member States' financial and planning support for AMISOM, the Council calls on all international partners to provide further financial, logistic and technical support for AMISOM and on those African troop-contributing countries not yet on the ground in Somalia to deploy as soon as possible.'

IRAQ – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council warmly welcomes the fact that the Iraq conferences in Sharm El Sheikh took place successfully on 3 and 4 May 2007 with very broad international participation. It congratulates all parties that have worked hard to make the conferences a success, in particular Egypt as the host country. The results of the conferences are encouraging and hopefully will contribute to an improvement of the situation in Iraq.
2. The Council commends the Iraqi Government for the ambitious commitments it has made in the “International Compact with Iraq”, which was endorsed on 3 May, to promote reforms in the political, security, economic and social fields. The implementation of these commitments will be central in developing co-operation between Iraq and all its international partners. Progress towards these targets will help to further enhance the EU’s engagement with Iraq. The Council underlines its appreciation for the UN’s continued assistance to Iraq including in the Compact process.
3. The Council welcomes the Ministerial conference of Iraq’s Neighbouring Countries with international participation, including the EU. The international community, and in particular the States in the region, have a responsibility to support and promote the difficult process of national reconciliation and stabilisation in Iraq, and to prevent outside interference that could undermine this process. The Council expresses its hope that the conference give rise to a long-term process of regional confidence building through dialogue and co-operation. It underlines in this context the importance of an effective and result-oriented follow-up mechanism, including the early convening of the agreed working groups on security, refugees and energy. The European Union is ready to assist and provide expertise in this process.’

MIDDLE EAST

Ministers, over lunch, had an exchange of views on the Middle East peace process ahead of their meeting with the Arab League.

In a joint informal meeting in the margins of the Council, they met, for the first time, with a delegation of the Arab League composed of the League’s Secretary-General, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinian Authority and Qatar, and a representative from Egypt. The Arab League delegation presented the Arab Peace Initiative to EU foreign ministers. After a discussion, both sides agreed to follow-up the meeting by continuing to work together with a view to supporting efforts towards a settlement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to enhancing cooperation between the EU and the Arab League.

At its 23 April meeting, the Council welcomed the Arab Peace Initiative as reaffirmed in the declaration of the Arab League Summit in Riyadh on 29 March, supported it as a major element in moving the Middle East peace process forward and expressed the EU’s readiness to work closely with the Arab League.

(...)

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

Ministers discussed the situation in Serbia following the recent agreement on the formation of a government by democratic parties. The Presidency expressed the hope that on 15 May the Parliament would give its assent to the government, which is expected to act effectively and get to work on necessary reforms. It indicated that the EU stood by its commitments regarding the European perspective for Serbia as expressed in the Council conclusions of 12 February 2007.

The Council also adopted the following conclusions on regional cooperation in the Western Balkans:

‘The Council welcomed the results of the Stability Pact’s Regional Table meeting and of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Ministerial and Summit meetings, held in Zagreb on 10 and 11 May 2007. It welcomed the decisions taken which show the firm commitment by the countries of the region of South Eastern Europe gradually to take ownership of and responsibility for regional co-operation. It reconfirmed the European Union’s readiness to remain involved, together with other donors and partners, in the forthcoming implementation of the phased evolution of the Stability Pact into the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) as a more regionally owned, streamlined and effective regional co-operation framework, based on the agreed RCC Statute. The Council recalled that regional co-operation is one of the prerequisites for the realisation of the European perspective within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The Council congratulated the newly appointed Secretary General of the RCC, Mr Hidajet Bišević, and the city of Sarajevo on its selection as the seat for the RCC Secretariat. It stressed the importance of maintaining the pace of the transformation process and, in this context, called upon all stakeholders to continue their efforts. In particular, the Council called upon the Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact, the new Secretary General and the incoming Bulgarian SEECP Chairmanship to ensure a smooth and timely final hand-over to the new structures, envisaged for February 2008.’

IRAN

Ministers briefly discussed relations with Iran and the Iranian nuclear programme, notably following High Representative Javier Solana’s meeting with Iranian national security advisor Ali Larijani on 25 April and with a view to possible further contacts.

LIBYA

At lunch, ministers had a further exchange of views about the case of the five Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor condemned to death, in a retrial, by the Libyan Criminal Court, and about continuing efforts to achieve a fair and positive outcome. The Council will continue to follow the issue closely and will revert to it as necessary.

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council held its six monthly review of developments under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), in the presence of defence ministers.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘Military Capabilities

1. The Council noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing the qualitative approach to capability planning called for by the Headline Goal (HLG) 2010.
2. The Council noted the Assessment of Member States’ contributions to the Force Catalogue 07 as another important step within the HLG 2010 process. It welcomed the additional contributions offered by Member States in light of the capability shortfalls identified as a result of the Assessment.
3. The Council further noted that the Evaluation Methodology has been finalised. This will be the basis for the Evaluation process, in which the implications of the remaining capability shortfalls as identified in the Assessment will be analysed to evaluate resulting potential operational risks.
4. The Council encouraged all stakeholders involved to make the necessary efforts in order to complete the Evaluation process within the envisaged timelines and to ensure finalisation of the Progress Catalogue in order to be submitted to the GAERC meeting in November 2007. This catalogue will contain a comprehensive assessment of EU military capabilities needed to fulfil the requirements set out in the Requirements Catalogue. In this context, the Progress Catalogue will identify all military shortfalls, categorise them in terms of their possible implications on ESDP operations (potential operational risk), and serve as a platform for shortfall management and future capability development.
5. The Council noted the Single Progress Report on military capabilities. Concerning the European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP), the Council noted that the migration of ECAP Project Groups (ECAP PGs) within the European Defence Agency’s processes has been completed, and looked forward to a possible way-ahead on the future of the remaining ECAP PGs.
6. The Council welcomed the close co-operation between the EU Military Committee and the European Defence Agency (EDA), in particular in the work of Integrated Development Teams and Project Teams and in the development of the Capability Development Plan.
7. The Council welcomed the continued co-operation between the EU and NATO. The EU-NATO Capability Group continued to provide a forum for exchanging information on the development of military capabilities in the EU and NATO where requirements overlap. All EU Member States were informed of these issues.
8. The Council noted the work on Information Exchange Requirements (IER), including a methodology noted by the Political and Security Committee in February 2007, aimed at defining operational requirements for exchanging information between all entities, both civilian and military, that may interact in support of ESDP operations with a view to a comprehensive approach. The Council looked forward to the establishment of an agreed IER which will provide a reference point from which EU Network Enabled Capability (NEC) activities can be built.

9. The Council noted with satisfaction that the EU Operations Centre has reached operational capability, providing the EU with an additional capability to plan and run an autonomous EU military operation, in particular where a joint civil/military response is required and where no national Headquarters has been identified, once a decision on such an operation has been taken.

Rapid Response

10. The Council noted with satisfaction that on 1 January 2007, the EU reached the Full Operational Capability to undertake two Battlegroup (BG) size operations of rapid response, including the ability to launch two such operations nearly simultaneously. The Council welcomed the efforts undertaken by MS to provide a multinational Maritime Task Group in order to make short-notice support to their EU BGs available. The Council welcomed the successful outcome of the six-monthly BG Co-ordination Conference on 3 May, in particular Member States' confirmed commitments and additional offers allowing the BG schedule to be completed up to the first half of 2010.

11. The Council noted the ongoing work on a possible revision of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept, based on a Tri-Presidency (Germany-Portugal-Slovenia) Food-for-Thought paper, in a joint perspective and taking into account the comprehensive approach to crisis management, bearing in mind the EU's level of ambition as laid down in the HLG 2010 process. This paper aims at developing procedures to generate forces rapidly, drawing from the Force Catalogue 2007 and additional voluntary force contributions by Member States. This work, which shall be concluded by mid-2008, will take due account of the results of Rapid Response Air Initiative and Maritime Rapid Response Concept, which should be elaborated by mid-2007. The Council welcomed the results of the first workshops on the Study for the Rapid Response Air Initiative in ESDP held in the first semester of 2007, including a possible mechanism allowing the rapid generation of those (air) capabilities listed in the Requirements Catalogue 2005. It noted that Member States may offer additional voluntary contributions. The Council looked forward to the further refinement of capability packages listed in the Requirements Catalogue, in order to allow Member States to offer interoperable subcomponents to an operation. With regard to the Maritime Dimension in ESDP, the Council welcomed the Maritime Dimension Study as noted by the EUMC in December 2006.

European Defence Agency

12. The Council noted the report submitted by the Head of the Agency on its activities.

13. The Council noted with satisfaction progress made in the development of the three longer-term strategies:

- ▶ The Capability Development Plan, based on the HLG 2010 process and the Long Term Vision (LTV), and involving a more precise analysis of future capability needs, in order to identify priorities for capability improvement and to bring out opportunities to pool resources and to cooperate,
- ▶ A European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) strategy with two work strands well on track: identification of key technologies for Europe and definition of policies. The Council welcomed the endorsement of the EDTIB Strategy and the priori-

tisation of the first steps commitment by the Steering Board in Defence Ministers formation on 14 May.

- ▀ An initial European Defence R&T Strategy in view of the presentation of a first draft document in the Steering Board of the Agency in autumn 2007.

14. In the context of the Capability Development Plan, the Council noted in particular the development of a methodology to be agreed in June 2007, looked forward to the establishment of a roadmap and highlighted the necessary close co-ordination between the EUMC and the EDA.

15. The Council welcomed the successful implementation of the Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement along with the Code of Best Practices for the Supply Chain. In this regard, the Council noted with satisfaction the listing in the Electronic Bulletin Board of opportunities offered by Member States' Ministries of Defence to suppliers in each other's territories and, since March 29, advertising industry-to-industry contracting opportunities. The Council welcomed the decision of Hungary to join the intergovernmental regime on defence procurement on 1 July 2007.

16. The Council welcomed the signature of the Programme Arrangement concerning the Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme on Force Protection. It welcomed the growing number of ad hoc projects under the EDA, including in the area of Software Defined Radio.

Upcoming Civilian Missions

17. The Council welcomed the progress made in planning for new civilian crisis management missions and expressed its appreciation for the performances of the various ongoing missions.

18. The Council welcomed the agreements on the ESDP police mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) and on the ESDP Security Sector Reform police mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (EUPOL RD Congo).

19. The Council also noted the progress in planning, assisted by the EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo), for a possible ESDP mission in Kosovo in the field of Rule of Law, following the status agreement.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation ALTHEA)

20. The Council reviewed the ongoing reconfiguration of EUFOR in BiH, which is progressive, but reversible until the end of August 2007. Once EUFOR will have been reconfigured by summer 2007, it will consist of some 2 500 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves, ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country and to provide reassurance. Cooperation with NATO in respect of Operation ALTHEA will continue.

21. The Council reiterated that, as part of its overall engagement in BiH, the EU would retain a military presence in the country as long as necessary, in order to continue contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

Lessons learned EUFOR RD Congo

22. The Council welcomed the conclusion of the first stage of the Lessons Learned Process following the successful EU-led operation in DRC in 2006. It noted in particular the identification

of gaps concerning the ability to conduct early planning in sufficient detail, inter alia, to allow Member states to assess their potential force contributions and to provide appropriate expertise along the decision-making process. The Council requested the SG/HR to address shortcomings in the EU Military Staff's ability to conduct planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations and to submit a report with recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Council at its meeting in November 2007.

African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

23. The Council reaffirmed the importance it attaches to cooperation with African partners in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, and underlined its wish to see its further development in the context of the forthcoming EU-Africa Summit.

24. It welcomed the fact that, in close association with the African partners and in coordination with the other partners involved, and in particular the UN, several concrete proposals have been identified with a view to providing support to the development of the African Peace and Security Architecture, with a particular focus on making the African Standby Force (ASF) operational and enhancing AU and SRO's (Sub-Regional organisations) institutional capacities.

25. The Council adopted PSC (Political and Security Committee) recommendations and action plan aimed at strengthening the partnership between Africa and the EU in the field of African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts (doc. 8551/2/07 REV2). The Council looks forward to the swift implementation of the action plan, including the development of RECAMP into a European instrument, in order, inter alia, to support the AU's operational certification of the ASF at the continental level. The Council also encouraged Member States to make available other national programmes, both in Africa and in Europe, in support of the development of the ASF. The Council emphasised the importance of developing options for long-term solutions on funding and operational support for African peace support operations.

Security Sector Reform (SSR) in the Democratic Republic of Congo

26. The Council agreed that progress in SSR remains a key issue to the consolidation of the security and stability in the DRC.

27. The Council welcomed the fact that following the installation of the newly elected government in February 2007, the ESDP mission EUSEC RD Congo has continued to provide advice and assistance to the DRC authorities in carrying out the integration of combatants from former factions, and in reforming the Congolese armed forces, including regarding respect of the international standards of Human Rights. The Council welcomed the progress made by the chain-of-payments project and recalled the adoption of short-term measures for the reinforcement of EUSEC RD Congo. The Council noted preparations for the further reinforcement and expansion of the mission's mandate and welcomed agreement on a new civilian mission in the field of police reform, EUPOL RD Congo, while keeping the perspective of a possible single ESDP mission in the field of SSR in 2008.

28. The Council underlined that co-operation with other international actors, in particular with the UN, in the field of security sector reform is of the utmost importance. It recalled the

European Union's readiness to assume a coordinating role in international efforts in security sector reform, in close co-operation with the United Nations, to support the Congolese authorities in this field.

Sudan/Darfur

29. The Council reaffirmed the EU's ongoing support for the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan, AMIS, including through Member States' ongoing contributions of expert military and civilian police personnel and essential strategic airlift, as well as the very substantial financial support provided by the European Development Fund (EDF) and individual Member States. It renewed urgent calls upon other international partners to provide similar support.

30. The Council welcomed the ongoing efforts by the AU and UN jointly to enhance the capacities of the AMIS mission, particularly the agreement between the Sudanese Government, the AU and the UN on the Heavy Support Package, including attack helicopters, and underlined the critical need for the support to be provided by the UN. It noted the urgency of implementing the agreement with the perspective of transitioning to a full AU/UN hybrid mission in Darfur.

Human Rights and Gender

31. Recalling its conclusions of 13 November and 11 December 2006 the Council welcomed the fact that Human Rights and Gender issues have started to be systematically included in the planning and conduct of all ESDP operations, and subsequently evaluated in the lessons learned processes. It underlined the importance of Human Rights and Gender mainstreaming and called for reinforcement of efforts, particularly with a view to achieving more concrete progress in this field on the ground.

32. The Council also called for closer cooperation on these issues with EUSRs, whose mandates now contain specific provisions to address Human Rights and Gender issues. The Council recalled its invitation to Member States in this context to nominate more female candidates for CFSP/ESDP senior management positions, including for EUSRs.

33. The Council welcomed the first training course on Gender and ESDP, organised by Hungary with the support of the Presidency, and called for the course to be standardised and incorporated into the annual EU Training Programme relevant to ESDP. The Council reiterated its view that emphasis should also be put on mission-specific training in this field.

Training activities relevant to ESDP

34. The Council noted the continued efforts in the field of training relevant to ESDP and endorsed the results of the evaluation of the training activities in the Final Training Report 2007. It looked forward to further work in the field of training where shortfalls have been identified.

35. The Council furthermore took note of the 2007 General Annual Report on European Security and Defence College (ESDC) Activities and the successful conclusion of the second ESDP High Level Course and ESDP Orientation Courses.

36. The Council welcomed the fact that in the military field, the catalogue on sharing training facilities in the EU has been established and activated on the Council webpage.

37. The Council noted that many Member States participated actively in the European Community Project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management, considering it a very valuable additional element in the sense that it creates a European forum for exchange of views and best practices in the field of EU's civilian crisis management.

Exercises

38. The Council underlined the importance of the EU Military Exercise (MILEX 07) which will take place from 7 to 15 June 2007. The focus of this command post exercise is on key military aspects of crisis management. During this exercise, the EU Operations Centre will be activated for the first time. MILEX 07 will concentrate on the interaction between the EU Operations Centre in Brussels, and an EU Force Headquarters (FHQ) provided by Sweden.

39. The Council recalled the importance it attaches, in accordance with the EU exercise policy, to the planning and conduct of regular crisis management exercises, including jointly with NATO and with the participation of all EU Member States.

EU-UN Co-operation

40. The Council emphasised that the recent Operation EUFOR RD Congo in support of the MONUC during the electoral process in the DRC again demonstrated the EU's preparedness and ability to support through concrete action the efforts deployed by the UN to secure peace and stability and to engage in close co-operation with the UN at all levels.

41. Furthermore, the Council welcomed the continued close co-operation between the EU and the UN regarding support to the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the ongoing implementation of the UN support package to AMIS.

42. The Council stressed that the EU is committed to further strengthening co-operation with the UN on crisis management, building in particular on experience gained so far.

43. In this context, the Council welcomed the Presidency's ESDP seminar on "Military aspects of UN-EU co-operation in crisis management operations in the light of EUFOR RD Congo", held in Berlin on 19-21 March 2007, and invited the competent Council bodies to consider its key recommendations.'

(...)

Meeting of the Defence Ministers

Brussels, 14 May 2007

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

OPERATIONS

Afghanistan

- ▶ Planning for the ESDP police mission in Afghanistan is being completed. This mission will represent a key contribution to the establishment of a professional police service in Afghanistan and therefore to bringing Rule of Law and peace and stability to this country. It builds on important efforts that the international community, and many member States in particular, are already developing there. It will bring greater coherence and sense of purpose in addition to more means. The challenges are nevertheless considerable bearing in mind the state of policing arrangements in Afghanistan and the security situation. We will need patience and determination.
- ▶ As you know, the main aims of the mission are (i) to give strong support to the building of a professional, trusted and efficient police force; (ii) to strengthen the interaction between the police and wider criminal justice system; (iii) to coordinate and support the development of joint strategy on police reform amongst the international community; (iv) to increase Afghan ownership of the reform process.
- ▶ The deployment is foreseen in two phases. The first phase is in the coming weeks, when the mission will be launched and the second is foreseen in November. Security of our deployed personnel is a key concern. We will be putting all the necessary means at the disposal of the mission to ensure that it operates under the safest possible conditions
- ▶ The future Head of Mission, Brigadier General Friedrich Eichele is already here in Brussels working on the final stages of the planning. I am very grateful to the German Presidency for offering such a competent and qualified police officer to head this mission.
- ▶ Member States and invited Third States have generously responded to the call for contributions for the personnel of the mission, largely exceeding the agreed targets.
- ▶ I called President Karzaï this week to inform him personally on the state of play of planning for the mission He is very grateful for this additional and very relevant EU effort.
- ▶ Relations with International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will be of key importance, not least as regards the logistic and security support it can provide to the ESDP mission. The corresponding staff to staff contacts with NATO to establish the relations between the two missions in the field are advancing well. Support from Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) nations will of course be essential and the Afghan planning team has also engaged in discussions with many of your experts.
- ▶ As you know, the US is currently deploying a substantial effort in the field of police in Afghanistan. We have therefore engaged with our American friends since the start of our planning. The US has clearly indicated its willingness to coordinate and cooperate closely with our police mission. Some of our police experts will also be deployed in US supported Regional Command structures and Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

- ▶ The planning for the mission is being closely coordinated with the Commission, particularly in regard to its planned justice reform programme in Afghanistan, and with the EU Special Representative (EUSR) in Kabul. Ensuring coherence within EU actors on the ground will continue to be crucial.

Kosovo

Political process

- ▶ Settling the status of Kosovo is about consolidating stability in the region. Uncertainty is destabilising. We do not want to see the region destabilise again. The EU has invested heavily in the Balkans, both economically and politically, and we want to find a sustainable solution to the Kosovo issue soon.
- ▶ On the Kosovo status issue, it is important that the international community has a coherent approach. It is also urgent to find a sustainable and pragmatic solution in the UN Security Council (UNSC). The EU continues to fully support UN Status Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and his efforts in conducting the political process to determine Kosovo's future.
- ▶ A viable settlement requires a UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR). It must be based on functional and sustainable solutions. It must also include comprehensive and effective measures to ensure the security and the future of all communities in Kosovo.
- ▶ UNMIK remains fully in charge until UNSCR 1244 is replaced by another UNSCR, which should provide a clear mandate for the future international presence. It is important that UNMIK continues to receive full support from the international community until the very last day of its mandate.

Planning of ESDP mission

- ▶ Our planning continues to be based on the assumption that there will be a new UNSCR establishing a clear mandate for the EU. We also continue to plan on the basis of a transition period of a maximum of 120 days between the adoption of a new UNSCR and the transfer of authority to the ESDP mission.
- ▶ A key issue for the success of the mission is to have close coordination with other international actors, most notably NATO. It is absolutely essential that the ESDP mission and KFOR are able to work closely and effectively together.
- ▶ As you are aware, a considerable amount of progress has been made at the staff level towards this end. Relations have been excellent, and work has been completed at that level on four Technical Arrangements to cover cooperation in the field.

République Démocratique du Congo (RDC) – Réforme du secteur de la sécurité

- ▶ Je voudrais en quelques mots vous livrer mon analyse de la situation politique et sécuritaire en RDC. Comme vous le savez sans doute, les événements tragiques des 22/23 mars dernier à Kinshasa nous ont montré combien la situation y restait fragile.
- ▶ Le nouveau gouvernement dirigé par M. Antoine Gizenga s'est engagé à conduire un programme de réforme consigné dans son contrat de gouvernance et celui-ci donne une forte priorité à la réforme du secteur de la sécurité. Nous formons ici le vœu que celui-ci puisse effectivement être mis en œuvre.

- ▶ Pour cela, nous le savons déjà, il sera nécessaire que la communauté internationale reste engagée aux côtés des Congolais. Cela est vrai tout particulièrement de l'Union européenne qui dispose, en plus de l'action au titre du FED, de deux missions EUSEC et EUPOL agissant en étroite synergie l'une dans le domaine de la défense et l'autre essentiellement dans celui de la police.
- ▶ Enfin, nous avons le souci constant d'assurer la bonne complémentarité de nos efforts avec ceux de la MONUC.

EU-UN cooperation in the field of crisis management – lessons learned from Operation EUFOR RD Congo

- ▶ First of all, co-operation between the EU and UN in crisis management has produced excellent results. The challenge is how we can further consolidate and deepen co-operation.
- ▶ The EU lessons learned paper has concrete recommendations. The way forward is via pragmatic and concrete steps to further streamline co-operation. The UN shares this view. We have already started implementation of some of the findings of the lesson-learned process through a thorough secretariat to secretariat after action review exercise.
- ▶ I would like to commend the Presidency for arranging the seminar on military aspects of EU-UN co-operation. We feel very much encouraged by the facts that the conclusions of the seminar tally fully with our EU lessons learned paper.
- ▶ On the lessons from Operation EUFOR Congo, I would draw your attention to a number of key issues in addition to that of EU-UN cooperation which we will need to address in coming weeks, and some of which we touched on at our informal meeting in Wiesbaden in February.
- ▶ We all agree EUFOR Congo has been a great success, but we also all should recognise that there are things that could be improved. If we want to be serious in crisis management we should seriously consider our shortfall and work to correct them.
- ▶ I was stimulated by our discussions in Wiesbaden on this issue. We must be pragmatic, this is the way we should consider solutions to the identified difficulties.
- ▶ There is one particular point I would like to underline: next time we need to make sure that we are able to get the first bit of planning right, so as to facilitate your national decision making process and support the Council decision making process. I will take this forward with General Leakey who will work closely with the EU Military Committee. I look forward to getting back to you with concrete measures.

Military Capabilities

Réponse rapide

- ▶ Sur la capacité de réponse rapide militaire de l'UE : Il me semble essentiel d'avancer sur toutes les voies en cours.
C'est en effet un sujet fondamental pour la capacité globale de l'UE. Il faut à la fois assurer la cohérence civilo-militaire, et aussi la synergie interarmées.
Je ne doute pas que les discussions permettront d'aboutir rapidement à un consensus sur un mandat et sur une méthodologie pour ces travaux.
- ▶ Concernant les Battlegroups : Je voudrais souligner que, lors de la réunion semestrielle de

coordination des groupements tactiques tenue le 3 mai, les Etats membres ont maintenu leurs engagements et ont fait des offres initiales jusqu'au premier semestre de 2011, une offre supplémentaire étant toutefois nécessaire pour combler le deuxième semestre 2010. Je voudrais notamment souligner qu'une offre importante faite par quatre Etats membres a permis de combler la vacance que nous avions au premier semestre de 2009.

Processus de développement capacitaire

- ▶ Comme je vous l'avais dit lors de notre rencontre à Wiesbaden, je suis convaincu que, puisque la Stratégie européenne de sécurité reste la base de travail, il est inutile de relancer ce processus une troisième fois. Je considère en effet pour ma part qu'il nous faut à présent prendre un peu de recul pour réfléchir ensemble à ce processus et en tirer tous les enseignements.

Plan de Développement des Capacités

- ▶ Dans ce contexte, j'appelle votre attention sur l'importance du nouveau chantier que constitue la réalisation du Plan de Développement des Capacités (CDP). Ce plan a vocation à offrir un cadre commun aux Etats membres pour aller au delà des conclusions de l'Objectif Global de manière à développer ensemble les nouvelles capacités dont nous aurons besoin. Le CDP doit aider les planificateurs à mieux prendre en compte les implications d'un monde incertain. Il faut avoir à l'esprit que les décisions en matière de programmes prises maintenant auront des effets sur nos forces dans les 20 prochaines années.
- ▶ Un tel chantier exige un engagement commun. Les travaux de l'Agence, en étroite collaboration avec les Etats Membres et le Comité Militaire, sont prometteurs. Le défi, à l'évidence, est de gérer cet exercice de telle manière que nous puissions produire des résultats opérationnels dans un délai raisonnable.

European Defence Agency

- ▶ We have just had a successful Steering Board meeting and I'm pleased to confirm that the Agency is well on track – going from strength to strength. It is now proving itself a fully effective instrument. My report reflects this overall satisfactory picture.
In short:
- ▶ Good progress on major new strategies, the two big issues for this year: the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (DTIB) strategy and the Capability Development Plan.
- ▶ Successful implementation of the major initiatives launched last year, such as the Code of Conduct on defence procurement, the Joint Investment Programme (JIP), the Agency's work on Software Defined Radio (SDR).
- ▶ And a potentially innovative and challenging approach on Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs).
- ▶ We have a good record – let's keep the momentum, all together.

HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

The momentum of the EDA's work continues to build. Last year's major initiatives (on the defence equipment market, and the R&T Joint Investment Programme) are proceeding well; major new strategies are being developed (notably the Capability Development Plan and an EDTIB Strategy); whilst the range of specific project activity continues to deepen and broaden.

1. The Agency's work in the first semester of its third year, framed by the Guidelines adopted by the Council on 13 November 2006 and the Agency's Work Programme for 2007, has continued to be increasingly productive.
2. The Agency has made substantial progress on developing long-term strategies:
 - ▶ Work has continued on preparing a Capability Development Plan (CDP) aimed at making the initial Long-Term Vision capability guidance more specific and thus more useful; identifying priorities for capability development; and bringing out opportunities to pool and cooperate. A methodology has been developed to fuse together the Headline Goal 2010 and the Long-Term Vision elements, as well as pMS' plans and programmes and experiences gained from operations; and work is now underway to establish a roadmap for the exercise, to be approved by the Capabilities Steering Board in June. The exercise has started well, with strong commitment shown by Capability Directors, and close and successful coordination between pMS, the EUMC and the Agency; the challenge will be to ensure that it delivers actionable conclusions within a reasonable time-frame.
 - ▶ Important progress has been made towards the development of a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base strategy. Building on the work of the National Armaments Directors last autumn, and the success of a major EDA conference on the subject on 1 February, the draft of an 'EDTIB Strategy' has now been prepared. This important document outlines the sort of DTIB to which Europe must aspire; the approaches and policies needed to achieve it; and the obstacles to be overcome. The Steering Board in Ministerial formation will consider its adoption on 14 May.
 - ▶ Efforts have been initiated to develop a European defence R&T strategy. Following their 2 February EDA meeting, R&T Directors launched an exercise to identify key technologies to preserve or develop in Europe; and the Agency, on the basis of inputs from pMS, has started work on producing a draft strategy for submission to the Steering Board in the autumn.
3. Beyond these developments, the Agency has successfully followed through important initiatives launched in 2006, in particular:
 - ▶ Intensive work and the progress made by the Management Committee of the Joint Investment Programme on Force Protection with the aim of ensuring signature of the Programme Arrangement on 14 May, opening the way for the first call for proposals.
 - ▶ The successful implementation of the Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement, with the National Armaments Directors Steering Board in late March judging the EDA's Electronic Bulletin Board to have made a good start. The same meeting saw the launch of the complementary section of the EBB (step 2) displaying industry-to-industry contracting offers. This will be of particular importance for SMEs and nontraditional suppliers, and support implementation of the Code of Best Practice in the Supply Chain.

- ▶ The acceptance by the Steering Board of the ESSOR project – a major effort to develop Software Defined Radio technologies initiated by a group of pMS in November 2007 – as an EDA ad hoc category B project. The Agency is playing a key role to ensure coordination and complementarity between this project, its own SDR activities, and the Commission initiatives.
4. Substantial progress is also now being made in a range of more specific project activities, such as:
- ▶ The development of a new approach to strengthen European capabilities in relation to UAVs, co-ordinating the efforts of the EDA, pMS, the Commission and Industry. An imaginative new initiative to focus on the challenge of inserting UAVs into regulated airspace will be on the agenda of the 14 May Steering Board.
 - ▶ The promising work on developing potential opportunities for cooperation in the 21st Century Soldier Systems and Armoured Systems areas to enhance interoperability and standardize components towards an ultimate European reference model (both examples of the cooperative armaments process in action).
 - ▶ The initiatives started in the Maritime Surveillance area, especially towards solutions to establish a coherent common maritime picture, taking into account the inter-pillar approach required by this civilian military endeavour.
5. Additionally:
- ▶ The Steering Board in NADs formation has identified the key enablers for more effective armaments cooperation – to be developed into a framework to take forward the capability needs emerging from the CDP.
 - ▶ Work continued with the pMS to rationalise the European Defence Test & Evaluation Base, focussing mainly on coordinating future investments in order to prevent further unnecessary redundancies. The aim is that the NADs Steering Board should be able to agree a Code of Conduct on such new investments at their next meeting.
 - ▶ The Agency has introduced a European Defence Standardisation Information System to assist pMS in their work on standardisation and encourage them to cooperate in this area.
 - ▶ The trend of generating every year around 20 new ad hoc R&T collaborative projects and €60m of financial investment is maintained. The Agency is analysing with pMS how to make this process even more productive, either by facilitating the administrative and procedural conditions, or by providing more consolidated needs and demand from the end-users.
6. Overall, I believe that the Agency is now demonstrating itself a highly effective instrument, which will be as productive as we are ambitious for it.

A STRATEGY FOR THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL BASE

1. In this statement the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency, meeting today in Defence Ministers formation, sets out its view of the future defence technological and industrial base (DTIB) we must seek to achieve in Europe. We then consider the policy implications – what we must do to get from here to there.

A TRULY EUROPEAN DTIB

2. The maintenance of a strong DTIB in Europe is a fundamental underpinning of the European Security and Defence Policy. It is our DTIB which supplies the bulk of the equipment and systems our Armed Forces require; which ensures that they have the best which world-leading technology can provide for them; and which guarantees that we can operate with appropriate independence. And the DTIB is also a valuable economic asset, as a major source of jobs, exports and technological advance – which in turn helps to maintain public support for defence.

3. Today, Europe possesses a widely-capable, and in many sectors world-leading, DTIB. But we recognise that this is largely the result of past investment. For the past decade and more, Europe's investment in its DTIB (EDTIB)¹ has substantially declined, along with overall levels of defence expenditure. At the same time, the costs and complexity of defence systems have continued to grow – and competition in overseas markets has become even more intense, from the US but also from the rising Asian economies. We recognise that a point has now be reached when we need fundamental change in how we manage the 'business aspects' of defence in Europe – and that time is not on our side.

4. The essence of this change is to recognise that a fully adequate DTIB is no longer sustainable on a strictly national basis – and that we must therefore press on with developing a truly European DTIB, as something more than a sum of its national parts. We cannot continue routinely to determine our equipment requirements on separate national bases, develop them through separate national R&D efforts, and realise them through separate national procurements. This approach is no longer economically sustainable – and in a world of multinational operations it is operationally unacceptable, too. We need therefore to achieve consolidation on both sides of the market in Europe: aligning and combining our various needs in shared equipment requirements; and meeting them from an increasingly integrated EDTIB.

5. As our National Armaments Directors have already identified², this EDTIB needs to be:

- Capability-driven (that is, focussed on meeting the real operational requirements of the Armed Forces of the future, whilst sustaining the necessary levels of European and national operational sovereignty);
- Competent (denoting in particular the rapid exploitation of the best technologies); and
- Competitive (both within and outside Europe).

6. Such an EDTIB will also need to be more integrated, less duplicative, and more interdependent – increased specialisation, at all levels of the supply chain, must take over from all (or at least too many) trying to do everything. Centres of excellence should generally emerge from a

1. In this context, construed as the defence industrial and technological base of the 26 EU Member States participating in the EDA.

2. EDA – Characteristics of a strong future EDTIB (NADs Steering Board, September 2006).

market-driven process, moderated by policy considerations including the requirement to achieve an appropriate regional distribution. This EDTIB must also be more closely integrated with the wider, non-defence European technological and industrial base, with less European dependence on non-European sources for key defence technologies.

7. We do not envision this EDTIB of the future as a ‘fortress Europe’, excluding imports from, or cooperation with, overseas defence industries. But we recognise that the problem of accessing the US defence market, and of establishing balanced technology exchange across the Atlantic, make it natural and necessary for Europeans to cooperate more closely to ensure the future of their own DTIB.

GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE

8. Like any industry, a strong defence industry needs competition and investment. Unlike other industries the defence business depends critically on governments in their role as regulators, customers and investors.

Key actions for governments

9. There is therefore a key role for governments in bringing about the EDTIB to which we aspire:

- D **Clarifying priorities.** Industry needs a customer that knows his own mind: and Ministries of Defence need to identify to the industry what they want, as far ahead as possible. This includes:

 - I **Prioritising capability needs.** A start was made on this in the development of the Long Term Vision we published last autumn³. We attach particular importance to following this up with the proposed Capability Development Plan, which must be worked up as a matter of priority.
 - I **Identifying key technologies.** We need to identify, from a European perspective, the key defence technologies that we must seek to preserve or develop. Military capability need is the prime criterion, but we must also have regard to the needs of autonomy and operational sovereignty, and the need to sustain pre-eminence where this is economically valuable.
 - I **Identifying key industrial capacities.** We must also undertake the wider task of determining which key industrial capacities we must preserve or develop in Europe (and conversely when we can reasonably plan to source of our future needs from the wider world market).
- D **Consolidating demand.** Aligning and combining the future materiel needs of our armed forces has been long advocated, and seldom achieved. Again, we look to the Capability Development Plan to provide a new springboard for this effort – whilst recognising that this will require real effort and a real readiness to adjust our individual defence programmes. Effective national processes are required to ensure that the collaborative option is always considered in our procurement decisions. This should apply not just to new equipment developments but equally – or perhaps more – to off-the-shelf purchases, shared programmes to upgrade existing equipments, and all other aspects of in-service support. Our

3. EDA – An Initial Long-Term Vision for European Defence Capability and Capacity Needs (Defence Ministers Steering Board, Levi, Finland, October 2006).

long-term aim is of an EDA fully competent to advise on potential collaborative matches.

- ▶ Increasing investments. Inadequate investment drives the need for change. Today's pre-eminent industrial competitor, the US industry, benefits not only from defence spending more than double the sum of our budgets, but from a higher proportion of this larger sum spent on research and technology, development and procurement (over 30% of the US defence budget, as opposed to the average of less than 20% in Europe). As we have previously noted, the imbalance is especially acute in spending on research, technology and development – the ratio is currently some 6 to 1. As we agreed a year ago⁴, an immediate priority is for us to 'spend more, spend better and spend more together on Defence R&T'.
- ▶ Ensuring Security of Supply. The concept of a truly European DTIB will not be realised in practice unless Member States can be confident that increased mutual dependence for supply of defence goods and services is matched by increased mutual assurance of that supply. The Framework Agreement on Security of Supply in Circumstances of Operational Urgency⁵ was a good first step. But that Framework Agreement must be operationalised and we need to find ways to better assure long-term survival of sources of key technologies in other countries – and a long-term willingness of partner governments to facilitate supply. Our ultimate aim is the achievement of equal confidence in security of supply from any part of Europe.
- ▶ Increasing competition and cooperation. Above all, a strong EDTIB requires governments to work together both to increase competition in European defence procurement and, when that is not possible or appropriate, to improve cooperation.

Competition: developing the EDEM

10. Though comprehensive data are unavailable, we believe that in recent years less than half of defence procurement has been carried out in accordance with the public procurement regulations of the EU internal market; Member States in general have relied on the 'national security' exception in Article 296 of the Treaty establishing the European Community to make the bulk of their defence purchases on a national basis. This has had the effect of stunting the development of a proper European Defence Equipment Market – thus denying both the customer and the industry the benefits of competition, and hindering the necessary cross-border integration of the European DTIB. It was this recognition that lay behind our landmark agreement in November 2005⁶ to a Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement which commits the 22 of us who have subscribed to the Code to open our national defence markets, on a voluntary and reciprocal basis, to suppliers based in each others' countries.

11. The Code arrangement is operationalised through the Electronic Bulletin Board on the EDA's website; the number, scale and distribution of the contracting opportunities now advertised there suggest that all national administrations are taking their responsibilities under the Code seriously. After 10 months of operation, the first cross-border contract awards are beginning to appear. We judge this initiative, therefore, to have made a good start; but we recognise that we need to maintain, and in some cases to improve, our effort, if we are to achieve the trans-

4. Defence Ministers Steering Board, Brussels, May 2006.

5. EDA – Framework Arrangement for Security of Supply between subscribing Member States (sMS) in circumstances of Operational Urgency (NADs Steering Board, September 2006).

6. EDA – Intergovernmental Regime to encourage competition in the European Defence Equipment Market (Defence Ministers Steering Board, Brussels, November 2005).

parency and build the mutual confidence that is required for the long-term success of this initiative. We also recognise that we must specifically address a number of outstanding obstacles to the operation of a fair market. We note and applaud the complementary efforts the Commission is making to tackle the same problem of market fragmentation.

12. When we launched the Electronic Bulletin Board we also agreed, with industry a separate Code of Best Practice in the Supply Chain. We know that our vision of a healthy, competitive and integrated future EDTIB will not be realised if our market-opening efforts are perceived to be simply a bonanza for the large prime contractors. With industry's active cooperation, we need to drive the benefits of competition down the supply chain – so that excellent second- and third-tier companies, often SMEs (with their typical flexibility and capacity to innovate), are able to prosper in a European scale of market. This makes economic as well as political sense: the future success of the DTIB in Europe will depend upon effective utilisation of human capital and innovation wherever these are to be found in Europe – in SMEs, and in suppliers not always associated with defence (universities, software houses, providers of dual-use technology), and in the new Member States. We note the slowness of Western European prime contractors to see the new Member States as places to invest, rather than just sell.

13. Against this background, we welcome the EDA's Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme initiative, as a complement to other more traditional R&T collaborations. Nineteen of us are contributing to this initiative, which aims to attract new resources, both financial and intellectual, into our currently-inadequate European defence R&T efforts. We also welcome the recent launch of the second phase of the EDA's Electronic Bulletin Board, which complements the earlier government-to-industry contracting opportunities with an industry-to-industry section. It is in this second field that SMEs may expect to find the most promising new opportunities. The strong support that industry has given to this expansion of the Electronic Bulletin Board suggests confidence that real movement is now underway towards the achievement of an effectively functioning European Defence Equipment Market.

14. The next stages of the journey will, however, require concerted efforts to tackle some major issues. Security of Supply has already been mentioned. Others include:

- ▶ Cross-border transfers. Current restrictions on intra-EU transfer of goods, services and skills are a major impediment to the achievement of our objectives. They are often absurd in their effects (a spare part urgently needed for a grounded aircraft in another Member State has to be processed as a 'defence export'). This will be a complicated issue to resolve, not least in relation to internal transfers of goods and technology imported from outside the EU, especially from the USA. Over time, reduced dependence on non-EU sources for key technologies will help. Meanwhile, we welcome the efforts of the Commission and different participating Member States to find practicable ways forward, and look to the EDA to lend its support, as and when appropriate.
- ▶ Offsets. Many EU Member States require their defence imports to be 'offset' by compensatory purchases or investments. The present structure of the European DTIB, and the still-infant status of our open market efforts, make this practice understandable; and such arrangements can provide opportunities for individual Member States to build their own skills and develop important relationships for their companies. Nonetheless, when offsets appear as a criterion in defence competitions, then these clearly are not being decided on the basis of the value of competing offers alone. This issue requires further study and analysis, and will need careful consideration over time. Nonetheless, we share the ultimate aim to cre-

ate the market conditions, and the European DTIB structure, in which the practice may no longer be needed – and, meanwhile, to consider how adverse impact on competition and the DTIB might be mitigated.

- ▶ **Equity amongst competitors.** Fair competition requires not only a level playing field, but also the assurance that individual competitors are not improperly advantaged. This suggests that features such as government ownership of, or publicly-provided aids to, defence industries will call for particular transparency if mutual confidence is to be maintained that there is no unfair competitive advantage (such as hidden subsidy) involved.

15. Whilst recognising that this is an issue that runs beyond our competence as Defence Ministers, we also note that differences in extra-EU export policies can indirectly impact upon the fairness of competition within the European Defence Equipment Market 0150 especially bearing in mind that the value of the extra-European market to our industry is almost as large as the European home market.

Cooperation: achieving more, and more effective, collaboration

16. Competition is not a cure-all. It is a tool for providing better value to the customer, sharpening our industries, and encouraging the evolution of the EDTIB we want to see. Often, however, cooperation may offer a better approach to the same ends.

17. The history of European equipment collaborations is mixed. Some have been highly successful. But too often they have been used with too little regard to producing cost-effective equipment, and too much emphasis on national defence industrial ends. Such a course is ultimately self-defeating; our defence industries will survive only if they can provide top quality goods at competitive prices. In this context, the main contribution governments can make is to exercise self-restraint – to allow industry to find the most efficient solution to consolidated requirements, and to move as rapidly as possible away from the approach of ‘fair shares’ (juste retour).

18. Governments are also responsible for initiating cooperative efforts with robust and realistic shared requirements. We need to make more systematic efforts to identify such opportunities in existing national plans – we look to the work of the Capability Development Plan as a key enabler in that regard. And we need to shift the emphasis away from an exclusive focus on cooperative development of new equipment, to consider also the potential advantages of collaborating on in-service support or upgrading of existing assets.

19. When new capabilities are required, it must be consistently borne in mind that the best collaborations start ‘upstream’ – the shared requirements must be achieved at the point where thought is being given to what the new capability will be for, and how it will be used. Attempts to harmonise the technical requirements of independently-conceived platforms are rarely successful. This emphasis on the early conceptual stage underlines the importance of a step-change in defence R&T collaboration in Europe as key to ‘upstream’ convergence of requirements thinking, and the point where the possible applications of new technologies are explored. R&T collaborations whether in the form of pursuing new technologies in their own right, or exploring through technology demonstration their possible application, are also more practically achievable than major equipment collaborations – the sums of money involved are typically much less than for new platform development, and therefore may more easily and quickly be made available from heavily-committed defence budgets.

Conclusions

20. We recognise that this Strategy, sketching our shared aims and identifying some of the main principles to be followed and main issues to be addressed, is only a start. The course we have set out involves a long journey and we recall words used in another context over 50 years ago: ‘Europe can be built only through practical achievements which will first of all create real solidarity’⁷. But we commit ourselves to continuous and active review of our collective progress towards the realisation of the successful European DTIB which we have sketched above – and we commit ourselves in particular to working on the increased transparency, growing mutual confidence and closer convergence of EDTIB policies upon which success will depend.

7. Preamble to the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty, signed at Paris, 18 April 1951.

EUPT Kosovo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 14 May 2007

Decided on 10 April 2006, the sending of a planning team to Kosovo, with a mission to promote the development of an efficient judicial system and police force, took place in the context of the imminent adoption of a new status for this autonomous province and the withdrawal of the United Nations mission to Kosovo (UNMIK). In the absence of an international consensus on this process, the mandate of this team, already renewed for the first time on 11 December 2006, was further extended until 1 September 2007.

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/334/CFSP AMENDING AND EXTENDING JOINT ACTION 2006/304/CFSP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EU PLANNING TEAM (EUPT KOSOVO) REGARDING A POSSIBLE EU CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RULE OF LAW AND POSSIBLE OTHER AREAS IN KOSOVO

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

- (1) On 10 April 2006 the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP⁽¹⁾ establishing an EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo.
- (2) On 11 December 2006 the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/918/CFSP amending and extending until 31 May 2007 Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP.
- (3) On 27 March 2007, the Political and Security Committee recommended that EUPT Kosovo should be extended for a further period until 1 September 2007 in principle, this date being subject to the ongoing work in the United Nations.
- (4) With a view to ensuring a seamless transition between the United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo on the day of transfer of selected tasks from UNMIK to the EU crisis management operation following the adoption of a United Nations Security Council Resolution, EUPT Kosovo should be used as a vehicle for the build-up of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo during the transition period. In this context, close coordination between the Head of EUPT Kosovo and the Head of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo should be ensured during that period.
- (5) Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP should be extended and amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP is amended as follows:

1. Article 5 shall be amended as follows:
 - (a) paragraph 3 shall be replaced by the following:

1. OJ L 112, 26.4.2006, p. 19. Joint Action as amended by Joint Action 2006/918/CFSP (OJ L 349, 12.12.2006, p. 57).

'3. The SG/HR shall give guidance to the Head of EUPT Kosovo. Following the establishment of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo and before the launch of the operational phase of the mission, the SG/HR shall give guidance to the Head of EUPT Kosovo through the Head of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo once the latter has been appointed.');

(b) paragraph 4 shall be replaced by the following:

'4. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall lead EUPT Kosovo and assume its day-to-day management. Following the establishment of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo and before the launch of its operational phase, the Head of EUPT Kosovo shall act under the direction of the Head of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo once the latter has been appointed.');

(c) paragraph 5 shall be replaced by the following:

'5. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall report to the SG/HR. Following the establishment of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo and before the launch of its operational phase, the Head of EUPT Kosovo shall report to the SG/HR through the Head of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo once the latter has been appointed.');

(d) the following paragraph shall be added:

'6. Once the Political and Security Committee has reached an agreement in principle on the appointment of the Head of the EU crisis management operation, appropriate liaison and coordination shall be ensured by the Head of EUPT Kosovo.'

2. Article 7 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 7

Participation of third States

Without prejudice to the decision-making autonomy of the EU and its single institutional framework, third States may be invited to contribute to EUPT Kosovo, once the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo is established, provided that they bear the cost of the staff seconded by them, including salaries, medical coverage, allowances, high-risk insurance and travel expenses to and from the mission area, and contribute to the running costs of the EUPT Kosovo, as appropriate. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions on acceptance of the proposed contributions.'

3. Article 14 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 14

Review

By 15 July 2007 the Council shall evaluate whether EUPT Kosovo should be continued after 1 September 2007, taking into account the necessity of a smooth transition to a possible EU crisis management operation in Kosovo.'

4. Article 15(2) shall be replaced by the following:

'2. It shall expire on 1 September 2007.'

Article 2

The financial reference amount as set out in Article 1(4) of Joint Action 2006/918/CFSP shall be increased by EUR 43 955 000 in order to cover the expenditure related to the mandate of EUPT Kosovo for the period from 1 June 2007 to 1 September 2007.

Article 3

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

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels, 14 May 2007.

For the Council

The President

F.-W. Steinmeier

EUPOL Afghanistan – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 30 May 2007

In the framework of its comprehensive approach towards Afghanistan, the EU decided to launch an EU Police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) in mid-June 2007. The mission, established for a period of at least 3 years, aims at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements under Afghan ownership and in accordance with international standards.

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/369/CFSP ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the European Union, and in particular Article 14 and the third subparagraph of Article 25 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 16 November 2005, the Council agreed on the Joint Declaration 'Committing to a new EU Afghan Partnership' which stated the commitment of the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (the Government of Afghanistan) 'to a secure, stable, free, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan as laid out in the Afghan Constitution adopted on 4 January 2004 (14 Dalwa 1383). Both parties wish to see Afghanistan play a full and active role in the international community and are committed to building a prosperous future free from the threats of terrorism, extremism and organised crime'.
- (2) On 31 January 2006, the Afghanistan Compact (London) was launched. This Agreement affirmed the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community and established an effective mechanism for coordinating Afghan and international efforts over the next five years to work towards conditions where the Afghan people can live in peace and security under the rule of law, with good governance and human rights protection for all, and can enjoy sustainable economic and social development.
- (3) The Afghanistan Compact supports the Afghan Government's interim National Development Strategy (i-ANDS) which lays out their vision and investment priorities. The i-ANDS reflects a process of national consultation, underpinning the benchmarks in the Afghanistan Compact and the targets set in Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals.
- (4) On 13 October 2006 the Joint EU Assessment Mission report was presented to the Political and Security Committee (PSC), containing an analysis of the situation of the rule of law in Afghanistan as well as recommendations for a way forward to strengthen the EU's contribution to the sector in Afghanistan and to make a strategic impact. The Joint Assessment Mission report recommended, *inter alia*, that the EU could consider contributing further to support the police sector through a police mission, and that a fact finding mission could be sent to Afghanistan in order to explore further the feasibility of such a mission.
- (5) A fact-finding mission was sent to Afghanistan between 27 November and 14 December 2006. Following on from its conclusions of 11 December 2006, on 12 February 2007, the Council approved the Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for an EU police mission to

Afghanistan in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law and agreed that the mission would provide added value. The mission will work towards an Afghan police force in local ownership, that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law. The mission should build on current efforts, and follow a comprehensive and strategic approach, in line with the CMC. In doing so, the mission should address issues of police reform at central, regional and provincial levels.

(6) On 23 March 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1746 (2007) on the extension of UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan's (UNAMA) mandate, which, inter alia, welcomes the decision by the EU to establish a police mission in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law and counter-narcotics, to assist and enhance current efforts in the area of police reform at central and provincial levels, and looks forward to the early launch of the mission.

(7) On 23 April 2007, the Council approved the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for an EU police mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN) with linkages to the wider rule of law.

(8) In a letter of invitation of 16 May 2007 the Government of Afghanistan invited the EU to launch an EU police mission to Afghanistan.

(9) The EU police mission will be set in the wider context of the international community's effort to support the Government of Afghanistan in taking responsibility for strengthening the rule of law, and in particular, in improving its civil police and law enforcement capacity. Close coordination between the EU police mission and other international actors involved in security assistance, including the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), as well as those providing support to police and rule of law reform in Afghanistan, will be ensured.

(10) As stated in the CONOPS, and given the need for a tangible EU commitment to police reform, and the linkage to the objectives of the Afghanistan Compact, the envisaged minimum time frame of the mission shall be three years. Owing to the unpredictability of the situation and to the need to ensure a flexible approach, and in accordance with the assessment criteria set out in the CONOPS and in the OPLAN, the size and scope of the Mission should be subject to a six-monthly review.

(11) The mandate of the Mission will be implemented in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could harm the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) as set out in Article 11 of the Treaty,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Mission

1. The European Union hereby establishes a European Union Police Mission to Afghanistan ('EUPOL AFGHANISTAN' or the 'Mission') for a period of three years, comprising a planning phase beginning on 30 May 2007, and an operational phase beginning no later than 15 June 2007.

2. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall operate in accordance with the objectives set out in Article 3 and carry out the tasks as set out in Article 4.

Article 2

Planning Phase

1. During the planning phase of the Mission, the Head of Mission shall be assisted by a planning team comprising the necessary staff to respond to Mission preparation needs.
2. The Head of Mission, assisted by the planning team, shall draw up the Operational Plan (OPLAN) and develop all technical instruments necessary to execute EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.
3. A comprehensive risk assessment shall be carried out as a priority in the planning process and shall be updated as necessary, focussing specifically on the security risks associated with Mission activities. The OPLAN shall take into account updated risk assessments and shall include a security plan.
4. During the Planning Phase, the Head of Mission shall work closely with the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Afghanistan, the Commission and Member States currently involved in police reform in Afghanistan.
5. The Head of Mission shall work closely and coordinate with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international actors, as appropriate, including NATO/ISAF, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Lead Nations, the UN (United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA)), and third states currently involved in police reform in Afghanistan.
6. The Council shall approve the OPLAN.

Article 3

Objectives

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall significantly contribute to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, which will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system, in keeping with the policy advice and institution building work of the Community, Member States and other international actors. Further the Mission will support the reform process towards a trusted and efficient police service, which works in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law and respects human rights.

Article 4

Tasks

1. In order to fulfil the objectives set out in Article 3, EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall:
 - (a) work on strategy development, while placing an emphasis on work towards a joint overall strategy of the international community in police reform, taking into account the Afghanistan Compact and the i-ANDS;
 - (b) support the Government of Afghanistan in coherently implementing their strategy;
 - (c) improve cohesion and coordination among international actors; and
 - (d) support linkages between the police and the wider rule of law. These tasks will be further developed in the OPLAN.
2. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall be a non-executive Mission.

It shall carry out its tasks through, amongst other means, monitoring, mentoring, advising and training.
3. 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.

Article 5

Structure of the Mission

1. The Mission will have its Head Quarters (HQ) in Kabul comprising:
 - (i) the Head of Mission;
 - (ii) Central Staff Advisers, including a Senior Mission Security Officer (SMSO);
 - (iii) a Training Section;
 - (iv) Advice and Mentoring Sections;
 - (v) an Administration Department.

The Mission will include, as appropriate, a support element in Brussels.

2. Mission staff shall be deployed at the central, regional and provincial level in light of the security assessment. Technical arrangements will be sought with ISAF and Regional Command/PRT Lead Nations for information exchange, medical, security and logistical support including accommodation by Regional Commands and PRTs.
3. In addition, a number of Mission staff will be deployed to improve strategic coordination in police reform in Afghanistan, as appropriate, and in particular with the International Police Coordination Board Secretariat in Kabul.

Article 6

Head of Mission

1. Brigadier General Friedrich Eichele is hereby appointed Head of Mission of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.
2. The Head of Mission shall exercise operational control over EUPOL AFGHANISTAN and assume its day-to-day management.
3. National authorities shall transfer operational control to the Head of Mission of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.
4. 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.
5. For the purpose of implementing the Mission's budget, the Head of Mission shall sign a contract with the Commission.
6. The Head of Mission shall work closely with the EUSR.
7. The Head of Mission shall ensure that EUPOL AFGHANISTAN works closely and coordinates with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international actors, as appropriate, including NATO/ISAF, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Lead Nations, the UN (United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA)), and third states currently involved in police reform in Afghanistan.
8. The Head of Mission shall ensure appropriate visibility of the Mission.

Article 7

Staff

1. The numbers and competence of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN staff shall be consistent with the objectives set out in Article 3, the tasks set out in Article 4 and the structure of the Mission set out in Article 5.
2. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall consist primarily of staff seconded by Member States or EU institutions.
3. Each Member State or EU institution shall bear the costs related to any of the staff sec-

ended by it, including travel expenses to and from the place of deployment, salaries, medical coverage, and allowances, other than applicable per diems as well as hardship and risk allowances.

4. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN may also recruit international and local staff on a contractual basis as required.

5. All staff shall remain under the authority of the appropriate sending state or EU institution and 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 8

Status of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN staff

1. The status of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN staff in Afghanistan, including, where appropriate the privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the completion and smooth functioning of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall be laid down in an Agreement to be concluded in accordance with Article 24 of the Treaty. The Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR) assisting the Presidency may negotiate such arrangements on its behalf.

2. The State or EU institution having seconded a member of staff shall be responsible for answering any claims linked to the secondment, from or concerning the member of staff. The state or EU institution in question shall be responsible for bringing any action against the person seconded.

3. The conditions of employment and the rights and obligations of international and local civilian staff shall be laid down in contracts between the Head of Mission and the members of staff.

Article 9

Chain of Command

1. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall have a unified chain of command, as a crisis management operation.

2. The PSC shall exercise political control and strategic direction.

3. The SG/HR shall give guidance to the Head of Mission through the EUSR.

4. The Head of Mission will lead the Mission and assume its day-to-day management.

5. The Head of Mission will report to the SG/HR through the EUSR.

6. The EUSR will report to the Council through the SG/HR.

Article 10

Political control and strategic direction

1. The PSC shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council, 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 to take subsequent decisions regarding the appointment of the Head of Mission. The Council, assisted by the SG/HR, shall decide on the objectives and termination of the Mission.

(1) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision 2005/952/EC (OJ L 346, 29.12.2005, p. 18).

2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. The PSC shall receive reports by the Head of Mission at regular intervals. The PSC may invite the Head of Mission to its meetings, as appropriate.

Article 11

Security

1. The Head of Mission is responsible for the security of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN and shall exercise this responsibility in compliance with the EU's policy on the security of EU staff deployed outside the EU in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty and its supporting documents.
2. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Senior Mission Security Officer (SMSO), who will report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the Council Security Office.
3. The Head of Mission will appoint Area Security Officers in the provincial and regional mission locations, who, under the authority of the SMSO will be responsible for the day to day management of all security aspects of the respective Mission elements.
4. Appropriate security training will be provided, in accordance with the OPLAN, for all Mission staff. They shall also receive regular in-theatre refresher training organised by the SMSO.

Article 12

Participation of third states

1. Without prejudice to the EU's decision-making autonomy and its single institutional framework, candidate and other third states may be invited to contribute to EUPOL AFGHANISTAN on the basis that they bear the costs of sending the police experts and/or the civilian staff seconded by them, including salaries, allowances, medical coverage, high risk insurance and travel expenses to and from Afghanistan, and contribute to the running costs of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN as appropriate.
2. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions on acceptance of the proposed contributions.
3. Third states making contributions to EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall have the same rights and obligations in terms of day-to-day management of the operation as Member States taking part in the operation.
4. The PSC shall take appropriate action with regard to participation arrangements and shall, if required, submit a proposal to the Council, including on possible financial participation or contributions in-kind from third states.
5. Detailed arrangements regarding the participation of third states shall be the subject of agreements pursuant to Article 24 of the Treaty and additional technical arrangements as necessary. The SG/HR assisting the Presidency may negotiate such arrangements on its behalf. Where the EU and a third state have concluded an agreement establishing a framework for the participation of this third state in the EU crisis management operations, the provisions of such an agreement shall apply in the context of this operation.

Article 13

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to EUPOL

AFGHANISTAN until 29 March 2008 shall be EUR 43 600 000.

2. The financial reference amount for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 for EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall be decided by the Council.

3. All expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the Community rules and procedures applicable to the general budget of the EU, with the exception that any pre-financing shall not remain the property of the Community.

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. Nationals of third states shall be allowed to tender for contracts. Subject to the Commission's approval, the Head of Mission may conclude technical arrangements with Regional Command/PRT lead nations and international actors deployed in Afghanistan regarding the provision of equipment, services and premises to the Mission, notably where security conditions so require.

6. The financial arrangements shall respect the operational requirements of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, including compatibility of equipment and interoperability of its teams, and shall take into consideration the deployment of staff in Regional Commands and PRTs.

7. The expenditure shall be eligible as from the date of adoption of this Joint Action.

Article 14

Coordination with Community actions

1. The Council and the Commission shall, each in accordance with their respective powers, ensure consistency between the implementation of this Joint Action and the external activities of the Community in accordance with Article 3 of the Treaty. The Council and the Commission shall cooperate to this end.

2. The necessary coordination arrangements shall be put in place in the Mission area, as appropriate, as well as in Brussels.

Article 15

Release of classified information

1. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to NATO/ISAF EU classified information and documents generated for the purposes of the Mission, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. Local technical arrangements shall be drawn up to facilitate this.

2. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to third states associated with this Joint Action, as appropriate and in accordance with the needs of the Mission, EU classified information and documents up to the level 'CONFIDENTIEL UE' generated for the purposes of the Mission, in accordance with the Council's security regulations.

3. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to the United Nations/UNAMA, 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 Mission, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. Local arrangements shall be drawn up for this purpose.

4. In the event of a specific and immediate operational need, the SG/HR 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 Mission, 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.

5. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to third states associated with this Joint Action, EU non-classified documents related to the deliberations of the Council with regard to the Mission covered by the obligation of professional secrecy pursuant to Article 6⁽¹⁾ of the Council Rules of Procedure⁽¹⁾.

Article 16

Entry into force and duration

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption. It shall expire on 30 May 2010.

Article 17

Review

1. This Joint Action shall be reviewed every six months in order to adjust the Mission size and scope as necessary.
2. This Joint Action shall be reviewed, no later than three months before its expiry, in order to determine whether the Mission should be continued.

Article 18

Publication

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

Done at Brussels, 30 May 2007.

For the Council

The President

U. Von Der Leyen

(1) Council Decision 2006/683/EC, Euratom of 15 September 2006 adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure (OJ L 285, 16.10.2006, p. 47). Decision as amended by Decision 2007/4/EC, Euratom (OJ L 1, 4.1.2007, p. 9).

FACTSHEET – EU POLICE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)

May 2007

In the framework of its comprehensive approach towards Afghanistan, the EU has decided to launch an EU Police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN). On 14 May, the Council is noting the completion of planning for the mission, which is due to be launched in mid-June 2007.

The mission aims at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements under Afghan ownership and in accordance with international standards. More particularly, the mission will monitor, mentor, advise and train at the level of the Afghan Ministry of Interior, regions and provinces.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will build on the efforts of the GPPO (German Police Project Office) and other international actions in the field of police and the rule of law. It will bring together individual national efforts under an EU hat, taking due account of the relevant Community activities. Its activities will aim at covering the whole of Afghanistan.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will consist of some 160 police, law enforcement and justice experts deployed at central (Kabul), regional (the 5 regional police commands) and provincial levels (deployment in provinces, through Provincial Reconstruction Teams – PRTs).

The mission will be established for a period of at least 3 years. Brigadier General Friedrich Eichele (Germany) has been appointed Head of the Mission (HoM) of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.

The EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) will have the political control and the strategic direction of the mission.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will be part of the overall EU commitment to Afghanistan and of a coordinated EU approach that includes local political guidance provided by the EU Special Representative, Francesc Vendrell, and a reconstruction effort managed notably through the European Commission delegation in Kabul.

In the period 2002-2006, the EU, as the second largest donor, contributed collectively EUR 3.7 billion (EC budget and EU member states) in aid to Afghanistan, amounting to one third of the aid provided by the international community. Of this amount, over EUR 1.1 billion has been contributed through the EC budget. EU member states have played leading coordinating roles in particular sectors and have made large contributions to security, including through current provision of around half the NATO-led ISAF amounting to over 16,000 troops (25 EU member states are deploying troops to ISAF), and participation in Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs).

The EU – European Community and EU member states – is also a significant contributor to the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA). The EU will continue support for the Afghan National Police through the LOTFA. To date, the EC has channelled some EUR 135 million into LOTFA since 2002. Furthermore, it will build on the current programme of assistance for rural development and the health sector. In order to strengthen the governance and reconstruction efforts in the provinces, the European Community has also allocated over EUR 10 million to the PRTs with the aim of supporting a range of European PRTs projects in different parts of the country.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will be set in the wider context of the international community's effort to support the Afghans in taking responsibility for law and order. The EU will continue to support the role of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in coordinating donors' civilian efforts and will, together with UNAMA, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the US and other key actors, including the international financial institutions, work towards effective cooperation and coordination within the international community and with the Government of Afghanistan.

The EU-Central Asia Partnership

Brussels, 31 May 2007

THE EU AND CENTRAL ASIA: STRATEGY FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP

I. Introduction: The EU and Central Asia

Central Asia has a centuries-old tradition of bringing Europe and Asia together. It lies at a strategically important intersection between the two continents. The Central Asian States of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have known considerable evolution in political and economic transformation since attaining independence. They have established statehood, safeguarded multi-ethnic understanding and inter-religious communication. By joining the OSCE, they subscribed to the Organization's values, standards and commitments. By signing the United Nations Millennium Declaration they set themselves ambitious goals.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the time has come for a new partnership between the EU and Central Asian States in a globalised world.

The common goal of achieving stability and prosperity by means of peaceful inter-action makes Europe and Central Asia partners for increased cooperation. The strong EU commitment towards its Eastern neighbours within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy will also bring Europe and Central Asia closer to each other, both in terms of political cooperation and economic development.

The development and consolidation of stable, just and open societies, adhering to international norms, is essential to bring the partnership between the European Union and Central Asian States to full fruition. Good governance, the rule of law, human rights, democratisation, education and training are key areas where the EU is willing to share experience and expertise. The EU can offer experience in regional integration leading to political stability and prosperity. Lessons learnt from the political and economic transformation of Central and Eastern Europe can also be offered. With their rich traditions and centuries-old exchanges, the EU and Central Asia can contribute actively to the dialogue between civilisations.

Many challenges facing the globalised world affect Europe and Central Asia alike, and warrant a common response. Security questions and regional economic development require close cooperation of the EU with each Central Asian state, taking into account their geographical location, in particular with respect to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. This applies i.a. to developments in the areas of border management, migration, the fight against organized crime and international terrorism, as well as human, drugs, and arms trafficking.

The dependency of the EU on external energy sources and the need for a diversified energy supply policy in order to increase energy security open further perspectives for cooperation between the EU and Central Asia. EU efforts to strengthen local energy markets will help to improve investment conditions, increase energy production and efficiency in Central Asia and diversify energy supply and distribution in the region.

Through this Strategy and the Commission's assistance programme for the period of 2007-2013, the EU defines the priorities for its cooperation with each Central Asian state according to its specific needs, requirements and performance, including human rights, good governance,

democracy and social development. Within the new external assistance instruments based on the EU-budget 2007-2013 the EU has planned to double the financial means for assisting Central Asian States.

Building upon and complementing the Commission's assistance programme, Member States of the EU are prepared to study specific bilateral partnership and twinning programmes with individual Central Asian States as well as programmes with a regional dimension based on an adequate and coordinated needs-assessment. Member States will support the Community's programmes to contribute to a more coherent and visible EU policy in the region.

In order to address issues of particular importance, the EU will within the framework of this Strategy:

- ▶ Establish a regular regional political dialogue at Foreign Minister level;
- ▶ Start an 'European Education Initiative' and support Central Asian countries in the development of an 'e-silk-highway';
- ▶ Start an 'EU Rule of Law Initiative';
- ▶ Establish a regular, result-oriented 'Human Rights Dialogue' with each of the Central Asian States;
- ▶ Conduct a regular energy dialogue with Central Asian States.

In implementing the goals and objectives laid down in this Strategy, the EU will be guided by the principles of equal dialogue, transparency and result orientation. It will seek close cooperation with all neighbouring countries of Central Asia.

II. EU strategic interests: Security and stability

The EU has a strong interest in a peaceful, democratic and economically prosperous Central Asia. These aims are interrelated. The aim of the EU Strategy is therefore to actively cooperate with the Central Asian States in reaching these goals as well as to contribute to safeguarding peace and prosperity in neighbouring countries.

The Strategy builds on the progress which the Central Asian States have themselves made since attaining independence. It takes account of their common aspects as well as specific national contexts and requirements.

It also builds on the results obtained under the implementation of the various Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, EU assistance programmes and other initiatives taken by the EU to support the states of Central Asia.

The Strategy is based upon common interests of the EU and the states of Central Asia. To align expectations of Central Asian partners with those of the EU will be a mutually beneficial and reinforcing process.

The EU has an interest in security and stability as well as in adherence to human rights and the rule of law in Central Asian States because:

- ▶ Strategic, political and economic developments as well as increasing trans-regional challenges in Central Asia impact directly or indirectly on EU interests;
- ▶ With EU enlargement, the inclusion of the Southern Caucasus into the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Black Sea Synergy Initiative, Central Asia and the EU are moving closer together;

- ▶ Significant energy resources in Central Asia and the region's aim to diversify trade partners and supply routes can help meet EU energy security and supply needs.

The EU strongly believes that strengthening the commitment of Central Asian States to international law, the rule of law, human rights and democratic values, as well as to a market economy will promote security and stability in Central Asia, thus making the countries of the region reliable partners for the EU with shared common interests and goals.

III. Instruments

In order to intensify cooperation with Central Asian States, the EU will make full use of the potential of Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Commission and Member States programmes, cooperation frameworks such as the Baku Initiative and political dialogue, using the variety of CFSP instruments. Cooperation with the UN, in particular the ECE, the OSCE, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, NATO, international financial institutions and with other regional organisations and fora will be enhanced. The EUSR, EU Member State embassies and the European Commission delegations should seek to strengthen cooperation with the OSCE. In addition, the EU seeks to put into place, together with Central Asian States, new forms of cooperation, such as a regular bilateral human rights dialogue.

The EUSR and the Commission as well as Member States play an important role in implementing this Strategy. The EUSR shall, on behalf of the High Representative and in accordance with his mandate, together with the Commission and the Presidency, and without prejudice to Community competence, monitor the implementation process, make recommendations and report to relevant Council bodies on a regular basis.

Twinning and seconding staff between EU and Central Asian administrations or companies is an essential part of EU co-operation with Central Asia in order to introduce EU-wide best practices in connection with Community legislation. This policy will be intensified based on the experience gained.

Public-private partnership initiatives as well as bilateral instruments and Member State programmes can play an important role in increasing the EU's commitment in Central Asia.

Interaction with international financial institutions will be strengthened, including the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The European Investment Bank (EIB) should play an important role in financing projects of interest to the EU in Central Asia.

IV. Bilateral and regional cooperation

The EU Strategy aims at a balanced bilateral and regional approach. The EU will balance policy approaches in Central Asia according to the differing needs of every country and to the performance of each country. The EU will foster regional cooperation among Central Asian States and between Central Asian States and other regions.

Bilateral cooperation will be of special importance. It will be strengthened to respond adequately to individual proposals brought forward by each of the five Central Asian States. It is essential to cooperate bilaterally on issues such as human rights, economic diversification, energy and other sectoral issues, including youth and education. The intensity of the coopera-

tion will reflect the commitment to transition and reform of each country.

A regional approach is suitable for tackling common regional challenges such as organised crime, human, drugs and arms trafficking, terrorism and non-proliferation issues, inter-cultural dialogue, energy, environmental pollution, water management, migration as well as border management and transport infrastructure. In this regard the EU will cooperate with international financial institutions, multilateral and regional organisations and institutions.

The EU is prepared to enter into an open and constructive dialogue with regional organisations in Central Asia and to establish regular ad hoc contacts i.a. with EURASEC, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), CICA, CSTO, CAREC and CARICC.

V. A strengthened EU approach

Human rights, rule of law, good governance and democratization

The development of a stable political framework and of functioning economic structures are dependent on respect for the rule of law, human rights, good governance and the development of transparent, democratic political structures.

The EU and its Member States intend to step up support for the protection of human rights and for the creation and development of an independent judiciary, thus making a sustainable contribution to the establishment of structures based on the rule of law and international human rights standards. Cooperation on justice between the Central Asian States and the EU Member States will also be appropriate. The EU will cooperate closely with the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the UN and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in this field.

The EU is engaged in human rights dialogues with a number of countries. Those dialogues are an instrument of the Union's external policy. Human rights dialogues constitute an essential part of the EU's overall strategy aimed at promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, sustainable development, peace and stability.

Against this background and on the basis of the relevant EU guidelines, the EU will raise human rights issues with each Central Asian state through an appropriate channel for discussion, inter alia by entering into a structured, regular and results-oriented human rights dialogue. The form and the modalities of such dialogue will be defined individually and at a future stage.

The objectives of a human rights dialogue with each of the countries of Central Asia should include:

- ▶ Discussing questions of mutual interest and enhancing cooperation on human rights, inter alia in multilateral fora such as the United Nations and the OSCE;
- ▶ Raising the concerns felt by the EU as regards the human rights situation in the countries concerned, information gathering and initiatives to improve the relevant human rights situation.

In addition, human rights dialogues contribute to supporting practical steps aimed at meeting human rights objectives at national level, in particular through financial and technical cooperation and specific projects to be funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

The EU will respond to suggestions put forward by the Central Asian States and will further intensify cooperation on matters pertaining to the rule of law, good governance and combating

corruption. To this end, the EU will develop a Rule of Law Initiative which addresses the specific priorities identified by each country. EU Member States and the Commission will coordinate their projects closely. Within the framework of this Rule of Law Initiative, the EU will support the Central Asian States in core legal reforms, including reform of the judiciary, and in drawing up effective legislation, for example in the fields of administrative and commercial law.

In promoting the consolidation of peace and international justice, the EU and its Member States are determined to share, with the Central Asian States their experience in the adoption of the necessary legal adjustments required to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and in combating international crime in accordance with international law.

The EU and Member States will aim to:

- ▶ Allocate adequate funds to this Rule of Law Initiative;
- ▶ Second judicial and administrative experts to Central Asian States on both short-term and long-term assignments;
- ▶ Provide training opportunities to experts from Central Asian States;
- ▶ Support the transparent implementation of legal reform;
- ▶ Offer the possibility of international exchanges by organizing and sponsoring specialized conferences;
- ▶ Facilitate cooperation by Central Asian States with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe;
- ▶ Encourage implementation of ILO norms and conventions for decent work;
- ▶ Coordinate closely with existing activities of OSCE field missions, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), bilateral programmes as well as the UN and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- ▶ and provide technical assistance and establish close cooperation aimed at making the legislative and constitutional amendments required for accession to and implementation of the Rome Statute.

The task of sustaining a culture of human rights and making democracy work for its citizens calls for the active involvement of civil society. A developed and active civil society and independent media are vital for the development of a pluralistic society. The EU will cooperate with the Central Asian States to this end and promote enhanced exchanges in civil society.

The EU will also pursue its objectives of ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world, as well as in Central Asia states, through international bodies such as the General Assembly or the Human Rights Council as appropriate. The EU is willing to cooperate with Central Asian States in these international fora to achieve this common aim.

Investing in the future: youth and education

Central Asia's future will be shaped by its young people. The majority of Central Asia's population is under the age of 25, providing enormous potential for development. Good education is essential in order to open up this potential for the younger generation.

The EU and Member States will therefore set up a European Education Initiative for Central Asia in order to contribute to the adaptation of the education systems of Central Asian States to the needs of the globalised world. It is willing to cooperate with major international partners and donors supporting educational programmes and institutions.

Under the European Education Initiative, the EU and Member States will in particular offer support in the fields of

- ▶ Primary school education;
- ▶ Secondary school education;
- ▶ Vocational education and training;
- ▶ Higher education cooperation, academic and student exchanges, for instance under the new Erasmus Mundus facility and TEMPUS and bilaterally.

The EU will support the development of regional education centres and cooperate closely with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The EU stands ready to open European Studies Institutes in the region. The EU is prepared to grant scholarships for students from Central Asian countries to European universities.

The EU will also support the continuation of the activities performed by the European Training Foundation in the field of vocational education and training in Central Asia.

Furthermore, the EU stands ready to support Central Asian States in linking with the EU e-network through the development of an 'e-silk-highway' and to promote long distance learning. It is our aim to link Central Asia to global Internet-based communication networks and to enable Central Asian students, teachers, academics, and scientists to participate in modern forms of life-long learning.

Promotion of economic development, trade and investment

The EU supports the removal of trade barriers between the Central Asian States and it will continue to support WTO accession for the four Central Asian States which are not yet WTO members on commercially viable terms and in full compliance with WTO requirements. WTO accession is key for wider economic reforms and diversification and better integration of the countries into the international trade and economic system. The EU will promote the creation of regulatory and institutional frameworks for an improved business and investment environment and further support economic diversification. The EU will continue to cooperate with Central Asian States in order to improve access for Central Asian products to EU markets. In this regard the renewed EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP – 2006/2015) offers the best ever preferential framework aimed at encouraging exports and economic diversification in these countries. Equally, it will be an incentive for diversifying their economies on the basis of the market access advantages offered by the EU.

Under INOGATE (Baku Initiative) and TRACECA (funded through DCI and ENPI), the EU will promote the development and expansion of the regional infrastructure in the fields of transport, energy and trade in order to make better use of Central Asia's economic potential, not least through improved regional cooperation. As an important trade corridor between East and South Asia and Europe, Central Asia can benefit from increasing trade.

The EU will continue to support the development of market economy structures in Central Asia. In this connection, the EU will cooperate with interested companies from the EU in a public-private partnership to promote the market economy. It will offer training and assistance programmes for Central Asian partners. The EU will support the aspirations and actions of the Central Asian States towards market economy structures.

The EU will:

- ▶ Support deeper integration of Central Asia into the world trade and economic system, in particular through the WTO accession process and eventual membership;
- ▶ Support economic diversification with a view to promoting sustainable development by improving local skills and potential (science and technology, innovation, tourism), promotion of SMEs, development of basic infrastructure (road, rail, telecom, IT);
- ▶ Support substantial reforms of the financial systems which are needed in most countries, especially in the banking and micro credit sector; improved banking regulation, supervision and enforcement; privatisation of state banks; increased competition among banks and easier entrance for foreign banks are key steps which Central Asian States need to take;
- ▶ Study further possible options to enhance the Central Asian States' ability to make better use of the available GSP and encourage regional trade;
- ▶ Develop the necessary systems, including with regard to regulatory approximation to the EC acquis, to allow a practical better access to the EU market for Central Asian products;
- ▶ Continue to support the efforts of the Central Asian States to fully implement the trade and economic provisions of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreements;
- ▶ Extend trade-related technical assistance and policy advice to facilitate the creation of legislative and institutional frameworks conducive to better business environments and to attracting foreign direct investment;
- ▶ Help the countries of the region to work out strategies to improve their individual credit ratings in order to qualify for future lending programmes;
- ▶ Support these countries in enforcing best customs practices as set by the World Customs Organisation;
- ▶ Support initiatives for know-how transfer and capacity building.

Strengthening energy and transport links

The EU and Central Asia share a paramount interest in enhancing Energy Security as an important aspect of global security. There is a common interest in diversifying export routes, demand and supply structures and energy sources.

Besides oil, gas and electricity, water management is a decisive aspect of energy cooperation with Central Asia. Hydro-power production and distribution are crucial to promoting stability and prosperity in Central Asia and beyond, including Afghanistan and Pakistan. Its potential has not been sufficiently addressed.

The development of resources in oil and gas has significantly increased the role of Central Asian States as energy producers and transit countries. Increasing oil and gas exploitation will contribute to better world market supplies and will be conducive to diversification. Gas deliveries from the region are of special importance to the EU.

The key elements for a long-term partnership based on common interests and reciprocity can therefore be established in the years to come: the exploitation of the energy resources of Central Asian States calls for substantial and sustained investment as well as for comprehensive policies addressing all the components of their energy sectors and facilitating access to most developed markets. The EU, for its part, is ready to consider all options for the development and transportation of these resources, in cooperation with other interested partners.

A market-based approach to investment and procurement and transparent, stable and non-discriminatory regulatory frameworks guarantee, for all sources of energy, the best prices and

increased opportunities for all stake-holders.

Against this background, the EU will conduct an enhanced regular energy dialogue with Central Asian States in the framework of the Baku Initiative¹. EU activities will also be based on the Energy Charter and bilateral MoUs on Energy issues.

The EU will support the exploration of new oil, gas and hydro-power resources and the upgrading of the existing energy infrastructure. To enhance EU security of energy supply, the EU will also support the development of additional pipeline routes and energy transportation networks. It will also contribute to regional energy security and cooperation, and widen export markets for Central Asian producers. The EU will lend political support and assistance to Central Asian countries in developing a new Caspian Sea – Black Sea – EU energy transport corridor.

The EU will promote the creation of an integrated Central Asian energy market and will support public-private partnerships which encourage EU investment.

Based on the objectives laid down in the Baku Initiative the EU will focus cooperation with Central Asian States in particular on the following matters:

- ▶ Converging of energy markets on the basis of the EU internal energy market principles taking into account the particularities of the partner countries;
- ▶ Enhancing energy security by addressing the issues of energy exports/imports, supply diversification, energy transit and energy demand;
- ▶ Transparency and capacity-building in statistics and in the governance of the energy sector;
- ▶ Supporting and enhancing technological cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian States in the energy sector;
- ▶ Supporting sustainable energy development, including the development of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and demand side management;
- ▶ Attracting investment towards energy projects of common and regional interest;
- ▶ Supporting the rehabilitation of existing pipelines and the construction of new pipelines and electricity transportation networks inside the region and towards Europe;
- ▶ Supporting the development of comprehensive action programmes aiming at the promotion of energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energy, notably with a view to meeting commitments in the framework of the Kyoto protocol;
- ▶ Supporting the ‘Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund’ initiative;
- ▶ Encouraging the countries to take initiatives similar to those taken by the EU in the Action Plan for an Energy Policy for Europe (European Council of March 2007).

In addition, the EU will continue to promote the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative within the Central Asian region as a means to contributing to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Environmental sustainability and water

Fair access to water resources will be a major challenge for the world in the 21st century. Most major environmental issues in Central Asia are related to the allocation, use and protection of the quality of water resources. With the region connected through cross-boundary rivers, lakes and seas, a regional approach to protecting these resources is essential. Linked to this is the need

1. Energy Co-operation between the EU, the Littoral States of the Black and Caspian Seas and their Neighbouring Countries, launched at the Energy Ministerial conference held in Baku in November 2004.

to improve forestry management. There is a need to have an integrated water management policy (upstream and downstream solidarity).

For the EU water cooperation is of particular interest, especially in view of achieving by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals on clean drinking water and good sanitation facilities.

Promoting cooperation on water management can at the same time foster regional security and stability and support economic development.

An EU-Central Asia dialogue on the environment was launched in Spring 2006 and will provide the basis for joint cooperation efforts.

Environmental issues related to the extraction and transport of energy resources as well as vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters are also matters of major concern. Questions pertaining to the protection of the environment should be taken into account in regional dialogue at all levels.

The EU will therefore:

- ▶ Support the implementation of the EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia) component of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI-EECCA) for safe water supply and sanitation and integrated water resources management;
- ▶ Promote transboundary river basin management as well as regional cooperation under the Caspian Sea Environmental Convention;
- ▶ Give particular support to the integrated management of surface and underground transboundary water resources, including the introduction of techniques for a more efficient water use (irrigation and other techniques);
- ▶ Enhance cooperation for appropriate frameworks for facilitating the financing of water related infrastructure projects, including through attracting IFI's and public-private partnership funds;
- ▶ Support regional capacity building on integrated water management and production of hydropower;
- ▶ Cooperate with Central Asian countries on climate change including support for the introduction and further implementation of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms at regional level;
- ▶ Cooperate with Central Asian countries in combating desertification and safeguarding biodiversity including support for the implementation of the UN Conventions on Biological Biodiversity and to combat Desertification;
- ▶ Improve sustainable management of forests and other natural resources in Central Asia, providing assistance for regional aspects of the indicative actions under the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Ministerial process (FLEG);
- ▶ Encourage increased environmental awareness and the development of environmental civil society including through cooperation with the Central Asia Regional Environment Centre (CAREC).

In the context of the above priorities, the EU will also give attention to related issues:

- ▶ Support Central Asian States in developing policies for pollution prevention and control;
- ▶ Upgrade natural disaster preparedness and assessment capability in Central Asia;
- ▶ Intensify cooperation with EnvSec Initiative.

Combating common threats and challenges

Modern border management creating open and secure borders could facilitate trade and

exchange in the region and help combat regional criminal activity, especially the international drug trade.

Assistance in fighting organised crime will be one of the priorities of the EU in the region aiming at a reduction of non-conventional threats to security.

Migration is one of the major global challenges of the 21st century. The impact of migration, both positive and negative, can be felt in all countries, including in Central Asia. The EU seeks to enhance dialogue and cooperation on migration with regions of transit, origin and destination through the EU's Global Approach to Migration. As part of the Global Approach the EU proposes to launch a close dialogue on migration with the eastern and south-eastern neighbouring regions.

The EU will step up its support for the development of modern border management in the region of Central Asia, including the borders with Afghanistan. Afghanistan's cooperation with its neighbours should be strengthened. Through BOMCA, the EU will seek a multilateral and regional approach.

The EU will broaden BOMCA activities and seek synergy with projects under implementation to reform customs services. The EU will seek better coordination and explore possibilities of close cooperation between BOMCA, the OSCE and other border projects from Member States and third countries.

The EU will:

- ▶ Continue to introduce the basic principles of integrated border management in border guard services and other relevant services;
- ▶ Work on specific border crossing points;
- ▶ Provide organisational assistance to support transformation of border guards from a conscript to a professional service; to support transition from a purely military system to a more police-style law enforcement agency and to support efforts to strengthen control mechanisms;
- ▶ Seek increased involvement of customs services to facilitate trade;
- ▶ Update the legal framework in accordance with international law in the field of combating organised crime (e.g.: UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols), with a focus on illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, preventing and countering drugs and precursors trafficking; improve institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies, and strengthen regional cooperation in fighting trans-national organised crime.

At the same time, the EU will continue to offer its assistance to help the interested Central Asian States – both at national and at regional level – to manage migration in a more balanced manner, which implies setting up well functioning systems to match labour demand and supply, facilitating integration of legal migrants and providing international protection to asylum seekers and refugees and other vulnerable persons.

The EU will give greater support to the fight against corruption, the drug trade, human trafficking, illegal trade of weapons from and to Afghanistan and organised crime in Central Asia. It will step up cooperation with the Central Asian States to combat international terrorism. The EU will strengthen the fight against drugs with a specific EU presence in Dushanbe. It will support the rapid installation of the regional anti-drug centre (CARICC) in Almaty and intensify cooperation with UNODC also with a view to tracking chemical precursors of heroin produc-

tion. Cooperation with China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on drug-trafficking will be strengthened.

The Ferghana Valley best embodies the challenges and possible perspectives of Central Asia. The EU is therefore prepared to lend assistance to Central Asian countries sharing borders in the Ferghana Valley in promoting projects which are designed to bring stability, prosperity and sustainable development to that region. The EU will dedicate special attention to programmes which address questions of border management, intra-regional trade and free movement of goods and persons.

Building bridges: inter-cultural dialogue

The diversity of religions and centuries-old traditions of peace and tolerance constitute a valuable heritage in Central Asia. Moderate and tolerant Islamic thinking respecting the constitutional secular principle is a hall-mark of the Central Asian countries. The EU highly values the peaceful multi-ethnic and multi-cultural coexistence of various creeds in Central Asia.

Building on this, the EU will promote dialogue within civil society and respect for freedom of religion.

VI. The EU and Central Asia in the future

This EU Strategy for Central Asia serves as an overall framework for the EU policies in the region of Central Asia. The EU sees a mutual interest in sustained dialogue and cooperation with the five Central Asian States respecting their differences and fostering closer cooperation among them on regional issues.

The EU is willing to contribute substantially to security, stability and prosperity in Central Asia. To this end the EU is committed to opening Commission delegations in all five Central Asian countries. Member States will consider expanding the network of embassies in Central Asia.

The EU will ensure coherence between this Central Asia Strategy and other EU regional initiatives, including the Black Sea Synergy Initiative. It will support intraregional trade and cooperation. It will also support active integration/participation of Central Asia in the WTO in order to ensure better integration of these countries in the world trade and economic system.

With this Strategy, the EU invites Central Asia to establish an enhanced political dialogue, including regular meetings at Foreign Ministers' level with the EU troika. The EU will hold annual meetings of its Heads of Mission in the region.

Based on the principles of this Strategy, the EU will work with each of the Central Asian countries to develop individual approaches to implementation, according to the specific needs and performance of each country, building on existing and future agreements, including PCAs.

The progress made on implementing the Strategy will be reviewed by the Council in June 2008 and at least every two years thereafter.

EC 2007-2013 REGIONAL ASSISTANCE STRATEGY FOR CENTRAL ASIA

The EC's 2007-2013 Assistance Strategy for Central Asia is conceived as a tool to support strengthening of political dialogue with the Central Asian States at regional and national level and to pursue the objectives defined above. In order to reflect greater EU engagement in the region, the EC assistance budget to Central Asia will be significantly increased under the new financial perspectives 2007-2013 to a total of € 750 mio, with the average annual allocation to the region under the development cooperation instrument increasing from € 58 mio in 2007 to € 139 mio in 2013.

The bulk of EC assistance to Central Asia – 70% – will be directed at the bilateral assistance programmes, taking into account the policy agenda of the individual Central Asia countries and their distinct political and social realities.

With more than 50% of the rural population living below the poverty line, poverty reduction through social sector reforms and schemes, including education, to increase living standards especially in rural areas, will continue to be the key priority for EC bilateral assistance. Implementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or similar policy documents to which the Central Asian governments have committed themselves will serve as guiding framework for such programmes. The second focus of bilateral assistance will be promotion of good governance and democratic processes and the strengthening of public institutions coupled with implementation of core investment and trade policy reforms. The content of the programmes will be defined in agreement with the authorities and tailored to the specific needs of each country.

Given its importance for the sustainable development of Central Asia, 30% of assistance will be dedicated to facilitating closer inter-state cooperation both within Central Asia and between Central Asia, South Caucasus and the EU, particularly in the energy, transport, environmental and education sectors. In these domains, the alignment of regional cooperation priorities and programmes for Central Asia with the regional strategy for EU Eastern neighbours lies at the heart of future assistance policy.

Closely linking the focus of EU regional cooperation with Central Asia with that of the ENPI regional programmes will enable Central Asian countries to benefit effectively from the relevant inter-state energy, transport, environment and education initiatives and strengthened programmes set up under the ENPI East, facilitating their anchoring to Eastern Europe and access to global markets.

MILEX 07

The EU military exercise MILEX 07 which was conducted from 7 June to 15 June 2007 was the second military exercise to be conducted by the EU. It is of particular significance as for the first time the new EU Operations Centre (EU OpsCentre) was activated. During his visit on 13 June, Javier Solana made comments which are reproduced on the following page.

Brussels, 4 June 2007

PRESS RELEASE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union (EU) will conduct its second military exercise (MILEX 07)¹ from 7 June to 15 June 2007 in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

MILEX 07 is a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and will focus on the key military aspects of crisis management. No troops will be deployed. During the conduct of the exercise the EU Operations Centre (EU OpsCentre), composed of military and civilian elements, will be activated for the first time.

The exercise will focus on the interaction between the EU OpsCentre in Brussels² and an EU Force Headquarters (FHQ) in Enköping (Sweden), in the context of an autonomous EU-led military operation. This exercise will provide a good opportunity to train the personnel of the OpsCentre and its interaction with the FHQ. In parallel with this exercise, internal training activities for civilian personnel will also be conducted.

MILEX 07 will be based on a newly developed scenario called ALISIA that is being used for EU exercises during the time frame from 2006 to 2010. The scenario depicts a situation in a fictitious country (Alisia), where friction between the Transitional Government of Alisia and a rebel group (National Freedom Movement) leads to a situation in which the deployment of humanitarian aid to camps of internally displaced persons in the North-Western part of the country is significantly hampered. A UN mission already on the ground does not have sufficient capabilities to address the situation.

Under the scenario, at the request of the UN, the EU has decided to conduct an operation bridging the time needed for the UN to reorganise its personnel. The EU operation will include the deployment of a force up to 2000 personnel including an Integrated Police Unit (IPU), temporarily placed under military responsibility.

MILEX 07 will be coordinated in Brussels under the direction of the EU Military Committee supported by the EU Military Staff, and under the guidance of the EU's Political and Security Committee.

The exercise will be conducted in Brussels (EU OpsCentre) and in Enköping (EU FHQ). Some 200 'players' and supporting personnel are expected to take part. The exercise represents a major step forward for the EU through the first activation of the EU OpsCentre.

The Council decision to schedule the exercise is carried out under the operational authority of High Representative Javier Solana. The Director General of the EUMS, Lieutenant-General David Leakey, is the Official Conducting the Exercise.

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). A third Crisis Management Exercise (CME 04) was conducted by the EU in May 2004. The first Military Exercise (MILEX 05) was conducted in November 2005.

2. The EU OpsCentre provides the EU with the capacity to plan and run an autonomous operation at the military strategic level, in particular where a joint civilian/military response is required and when no national HQ is identified. It is located in a Council building in Brussels.

Staff representatives from the NATO, the UN, the OSCE, as well as the non-EU European NATO members and other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Canada, the United States, Russia, Ukraine and the Mediterranean Partners, will be invited for information briefings in the context of this exercise.

Brussels, 13 June 2007

REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

We have just successfully activated the EU Operations Centre for the first time.

As you know, the exercise scenario depicts a UN humanitarian crisis response mission. The UN has asked the EU to plan for a bridging operation, to give them the time they need to re-organise their existing mission and to call for a new mandate.

As you will also know, this complex and demanding situation is one that we have already done for real. Here we are developing our capacity to act quickly and coherently, through the use of the Ops Centre.

We have been focusing on the key issue of military strategic planning, and practising the interaction between the EU OpsCentre and an EU Force Headquarters in Sweden. In particular, we have tested the deployable communications systems Brussels and the FHQ in Enköping.

We will continue to test and learn each year. Of course, we will also continue to strengthen our capacity by learning from the actual operations we are running.

Finally, let me just say that we also regularly conduct exercises which also practice direct co-ordination and co-operation between the EU's military and civilian components. This is a real added value to our overall crisis management activities.

EUPOL RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 12 June 2007

COUNCIL 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 and Article 25, third paragraph, thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Further to an official invitation from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 9 December 2004 the Council adopted Joint Action 2004/847/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission in Kinshasa (DRC) regarding the Integrated Police Unit (EUPOL 'Kinshasa')⁽¹⁾, as provided for in the Global and Inclusive Agreement on Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, signed in Pretoria on 17 December 2002, and the Memorandum on the Army and Security of 29 June 2003.
- (2) Following the promulgation on 18 February 2006 of the Constitution of the Democratic 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. Its programme provides in particular for a comprehensive reform of the security sector (SSR), the drawing up of a national plan, and priority reforms in the police, armed forces and judicial sectors.
- (3) The United Nations has reaffirmed its support for the reform of the security sector in several Security Council resolutions, and is conducting the MONUC operation in the DRC which is contributing to the security and stability of the country. On 15 May 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1756 (2007) extending MONUC's mandate and allowing it, in close cooperation with other international partners including the European Union, to contribute to efforts to support the government in the initial process of planning security sector reform.
- (4) The European Union has consistently shown its support for the transition process in the DRC and for the reform of the security sector, including by the organisation of three operations under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): EUSEC RD Congo⁽²⁾, EUPOL Kinshasa and Operation EUFOR RD Congo⁽³⁾.
- (5) As it is aware of the benefits to be gained from adopting a comprehensive approach combining the different initiatives underway, the EU indicated in the conclusions adopted by the

(1) OJ L 367, 14.12.2004, p. 30. Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2006/913/CFSP (OJ L 346, 9.12.2006, p. 67).

(2) Council Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP of 2 May 2005 on the European Union mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (OJ L 112, 3.5.2005, p. 20). Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2007/192/CFSP (OJ L 87, 28.3.2007, p. 22).

(3) Council Joint Action 2006/319/CFSP of 27 April 2006 on the European Union military operation in support of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process. (OJ L 116, 29.4.2006, p. 98). Joint Action repealed by Joint Action 2007/147/CFSP (OJ L 64, 2.3.2007, p. 44).

Council on 15 September 2006 that it was prepared to assume a coordinating role in international efforts in the security sector, in close cooperation with the United Nations, to support the Congolese authorities in this field.

(6) In this context, the General Secretariat of the Council and staff of the Commission carried out two evaluation missions in the DRC, in cooperation with the Congolese authorities, in October 2006 and March 2007, to develop an overall EU approach to security sector reform.

(7) On 7 December 2006 the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/913/CFSP amending and extending Joint Action 2004/847/CFSP. The new mandate, which runs until 30 June 2007, also enabled EUPOL ‘Kinshasa’ to increase its advisory role with the Congolese police in order to facilitate, in liaison with the EUSEC RD Congo mission, the process of security sector reform in the DRC.

(8) On 14 May 2007, the Council approved an operations concept relating to a police mission conducted under the European Security and Defence Policy on security sector reform (SSR) and its interface with the justice system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The concept provides in particular that there should be no break in continuity when the activities of EUPOL Kinshasa cease and those of EUPOL RD Congo commence.

(9) On the same date, 14 May 2007, the Council approved a revised general concept on continuation of the mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, EUSEC RD Congo.

(10) Synergies between the two missions, EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo, should be promoted taking into account equally the prospect that the two missions may eventually become a single mission.

(11) 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, in particular through appropriate arrangements. The European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the African Great Lakes Region should have a key role to play in this respect, taking account of his mandate.

(12) On 15 February 2007 the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/112/CFSP⁽¹⁾ appointing Mr Roeland VAN DE GEER as the new EUSR for the African Great Lakes Region.

(13) On 11 May 2007 the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR) sent a letter to the Congolese authorities to inform them of the EU’s willingness to continue and increase its current commitment in the field of security sector reform and to obtain their formal consent. In a letter dated 2 June 2007, the Congolese authorities formally accepted the EU’s offer and invited it to organise a mission to that effect.

(14) Third States should participate in the project in accordance with the general guidelines defined by the European Council.

(15) The mandate of the 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,

(1) OJ L 46, 16.2.2007, p. 79.

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Mission

1. The European Union is conducting a mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform (SSR) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), called EUPOL RD Congo, with the aim of contributing to Congolese efforts to reform and restructure the National Congolese Police (PNC) and its interaction with the judicial system. The mission must provide advice and assistance directly to the responsible Congolese authorities and through the police reform monitoring committee (CSRP) and the joint committee on justice, 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.
2. The mission shall operate in accordance with the provisions contained in the mission statement set out in Article 2.

Article 2

Mission Statement

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:
 - ▶ 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,
 - ▶ operate 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.
2. EUPOL RD Congo shall be a mission without executive powers. It shall accomplish its tasks through, inter alia, mentoring, monitoring and advisory duties.
3. 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.

Article 3

Structure of the mission and deployment zone

1. The mission shall have headquarters (HQ) in Kinshasa consisting of:
 - (a) the Head of Mission;
 - (b) a team of police advisers at strategic level;
 - (c) a team of police advisers at operational level;
 - (d) a team of legal advisers at strategic and operational level;
 - (e) administrative support.

2. The operational breakdown of tasks will be as follows:
 - (a) experts forming an integral part of the various working parties on police reform, and advisers assigned to the key organisational and decision-making posts of the Police Reform Monitoring Committee (CSRP) planned by the Congolese authorities;
 - (b) experts assigned to the Congolese National Police (PNC), particularly in key posts, and assigned to mentor the criminal police and the police responsible for the maintenance of law and order;
 - (c) justice interface in the field of criminal law in order to add to activities in the police field an interface with criminal justice and follow up important aspects of reform of criminal justice, including in the case of military criminal law;
 - (d) expertise aimed at contributing to the horizontal aspects of SSR.
3. The deployment zone shall be Kinshasa. Given the geographical implications of the mission throughout the territory of the DRC, as a result of the mission statement, movement of experts and their presence in the provinces could prove necessary, on the instructions of the Head of Mission or of any person so authorised by the Head of Mission and taking due account of the security situation.

Article 4

Planning

The Head of Mission shall draw up the Operational Plan (OPLAN) for the mission so that it may be submitted for approval by the Council. The Head of Mission shall be assisted in this task by the General Secretariat of the Council.

Article 5

Head of Mission

1. Superintendent Adílio Ruivo Custódio shall be appointed Head of Mission.
2. The Head of Mission shall exercise operational control over and assume day-to-day management of the EUPOL RD mission.
3. The national authorities shall delegate operational control to the Head of Mission of EUPOL RD Congo.
4. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for disciplinary control of the staff. In the case of seconded staff, any disciplinary action shall be taken by the national or European authority concerned.
5. In order to execute the budget for the mission, the Head of Mission shall sign a contract with the Commission.
6. The Head of Mission shall collaborate closely with the EUSR.
7. The Head of Mission shall ensure that EUPOL RD Congo closely coordinates its action with the Government of the DRC, the United Nations, via the MONUC mission, and the third States involved in the SSR field (aspects of the police/justice interface).
8. The Head of Mission shall ensure that the mission has a sufficiently high profile.

Article 6

Staff

1. Mission experts shall be seconded by Member States and by the EU institutions. Each Member State or institution shall bear the costs relating to the seconded experts, including

travel expenses to and from the DRC, salaries, medical coverage and allowances, other than per diems and allowances linked to risks and living conditions.

2. International civilian staff and local staff shall be recruited on a contractual basis by the mission as required.

3. Mission experts shall remain under the authority of their Member State or the appropriate 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, as a crisis-management operation, 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 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 through the EUSR.

6. The EUSR shall report to the Council through 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 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 Operational Plan (OPLAN). It shall also include powers 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.

Article 9

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount to cover expenditure relating to the mission shall be EUR 5 500 000.

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, with the exception that any pre-financing shall not remain the property of the Community. 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 subsistence 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 project as EU 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 Secretary General/High Representative, 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

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 coordinating EU activities in the DRC shall be put in place in Kinshasa, as well as in Brussels.

2. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of Mission shall act in close coordination with the Commission delegation.

3. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of Mission EUSEC RD Congo and the Head of Mission EUPOL RD Congo shall closely coordinate their actions and shall seek synergies between the two missions, particularly as regards the horizontal aspects of security-sector reform in the DRC.

4. In accordance with his mandate, the EUSR shall ensure consistency between the actions undertaken by the EUPOL RD Congo mission and the EUSEC RD Congo mission. He shall contribute to coordination with the other international players involved in security-sector reform in the DRC.

5. The Head of Mission shall cooperate with the other international players present, in particular MONUC and the third States involved in the DRC.

Article 12

Release of classified information

1. The Secretary-General/High Representative shall be authorised to release to the third States associated with the present Joint Action any European Union classified information and

documents up to the 'EU CONFIDENTIAL' level which are generated for the purposes of the operation, in accordance with the Council's security regulations⁽¹⁾.

2. The Secretary-General/High Representative shall also be authorised to release to the United Nations, in accordance with the operational needs of the mission, any European Union information and documents up to the 'EU RESTRICTED' level which are generated for the purposes of the operation, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. Local arrangements will be made to that end.

3. In the case of precise and immediate operational need, the Secretary-General/High Representative shall also be authorized to release to the host State any European Union information and documents up to the 'EU RESTRICTED' level which are generated for the purposes of the operation, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. In all other cases, such information and documents will be released to the host State in accordance with the appropriate procedures for cooperation by the host State with the European Union.

4. The Secretary-General/High Representative shall be authorised to release to the third States associated with the present Joint Action any European Union non-classified documents connected with the deliberations of the Council relating 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 on European Union. The SG/HR, who shall assist the Presidency, may negotiate such arrangements on its behalf.

2. The State or Community 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 Community 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 EUPOL RD Congo.

2. The Head of Mission shall exercise that responsibility in accordance with EU directives concerning the security of EU staff deployed outside the territory of the EU in an operational mission under Title V of the Treaty and the relevant documents.

3. Appropriate training in security measures will be carried out for all staff in accordance with the OPLAN. A reminder of the security regulations will be provided regularly by the EUPOL RD Congo officer in charge of security.

(1) Decision 2001/264/EC (OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1). Decision as last amended by Decision 2005/952/EC (OJ L 346, 29.12.2005, p. 18).

(2) Decision 2006/683/EC, Euratom (OJ L 285, 16.10.2006, p. 47). Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/4/EC, Euratom (OJ L 1, 4.1.2007, p. 9).

Article 15

Review of the mission

The Political and Security Committee shall, on the basis of a report by the General Secretariat of the Council, presented at the latest in March 2008, agree recommendations to the Council for a decision to be taken as to whether the two missions, namely EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo, should become a single mission.

Article 16

Entry into force and duration

This Joint Action shall enter into force on 1 July 2007.

It shall apply until 30 June 2008.

Article 17

Publication

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

Done at Luxembourg, 12 June 2007.

For the Council

The President

W. Schäuble

DOCUMENT D'INFORMATION SUR LA MISSION EUROPEENNE DE POLICE EUPOL RD CONGO

1^{er} juillet 2007

En Décembre 2006, la République Démocratique du Congo a connu ses premières élections démocratiques depuis son accession à l'indépendance en 1960.

En mettant fin à plus de 10 ans de conflit et 4 années de Transition politique, l'élection du Président de la République Joseph Kabila, laisse augurer d'une nouvelle ère pour le Congo.

Une ère nouvelle placée sous le signe de la reconstruction par les nouvelles autorités congolaises. Une des premières tâches, identifiée comme prioritaire, vise à la restauration de l'état de droit sur l'ensemble du territoire de la RDC et nécessite pour cela de procéder à la réforme du secteur de sécurité (RSS) dans ses trois domaines : armée, police, justice.

A leur demande, l'Union européenne a décidé de soutenir les efforts des autorités congolaises dans cette action.

Outre les actions de coopération au développement menées au nom de l'Union par la Commission européenne, cette assistance se matérialise, dans le cadre de la Politique européenne de sécurité et de défense (PESD), par la présence de deux missions européennes d'appui technique :

- ▶ La Mission EUSEC RD CONGO, en place depuis 2005, dirigée par le Général Pierre-Michel Joana (France). Son activité est consacrée à la réforme de l'armée ;
- ▶ La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO, en place depuis le 1^{er} juillet 2007, dirigée par le Superintendant Adilio Custodio (Portugal). Son activité est dédiée à la réforme de la police.

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO succède à la Mission EUPOL-KINSHASA. Cette dernière, première mission européenne de police en Afrique, a été déployée sur la ville de Kinshasa entre février 2005 et juin 2007. Son action s'est inscrite dans les efforts d'assistance internationale à la sécurisation des élections¹.

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO vise à soutenir et assister les autorités congolaises dans la réforme du secteur de sécurité (RSS) dans le domaine de la police et de son interaction avec la justice. Elle n'a ni compétence ni vocation à se substituer à la police congolaise dans ses missions et responsabilités.

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO est composée de 39 agents internationaux, dont des policiers, des experts des questions de justice pénale et un expert compétent dans les domaines transverses de la réforme du secteur de sécurité, ainsi qu'une expertise en matière de droits de l'homme et d'enfants dans les conflits armés. La mission disposera de compétences additionnelles en matière d'égalité hommes/femmes.

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO, comme son nom l'indique, a compétence nationale. Pour autant ses effectifs seront dans un premier temps concentrés dans leur tâche sur la capitale.

1. La Mission EUPOL-Kinshasa a eu pour mandat d'encadrer une unité de police spécialisée (l'Unité de Police Intégrée UPI) chargée de protéger les acteurs et institutions de la Transition. Elle a également appuyé la coordination des forces de maintien de l'ordre sur la capitale congolaise.

L'action de la Mission EUPOL RD CONGO se décline sous plusieurs activités :

L'appui au Comité de Suivi pour la réforme de la Police (le CSRP)

Le gouvernement congolais a prévu dans son contrat de gouvernance la mise en place d'un Comité de Suivi pour la Réforme de la Police (CSRP). Ce dernier, sous l'autorité du Ministère de l'Intérieur, de la Décentralisation et de la Sécurité, doit être l'instrument de la réforme de la police congolaise, c'est-à-dire développer, organiser et assurer le suivi de la réforme de la Police Nationale Congolaise sur la base de la nouvelle Loi organique de la Police tout en favorisant la coordination internationale dans ce domaine.

Le projet de la Mission EUPOL est de faciliter, d'aider et de participer à la mise en place de cet instrument congolais de réforme. A ce titre, plusieurs experts européens seront associés aux experts congolais et internationaux dans des groupes de travail consacrés entre autre à la réforme de la gestion du personnel, de la formation, et de l'organisation de la future Police congolaise.

L'appui à la réforme de la justice

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO dispose d'une interface « justice ». Quatre magistrats ont pour tâche de travailler en coordination avec les partenaires nationaux et internationaux sur les aspects de la justice pénale.

Leur action se concentrera d'une part sur les problématiques liées à l'interaction entre la police et la justice et d'autre part sur la séparation entre la justice civile et la justice militaire.

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO dispose aussi de deux volets opérationnels.

Assistance à la police judiciaire

La Mission EUPOL RD CONGO délivrera une action de conseil, de suivi et d'encadrement à la police judiciaire à Kinshasa en vue d'améliorer son niveau et sa capacité à véritablement prévenir la criminalité, ainsi qu'à enquêter, à évaluer les performances, à identifier les besoins et à optimiser les efforts de la RSS dans le domaine de la police (judiciaire) en apportant l'interface nécessaire avec le ministère public.

Assistance à la mise en place de centres opérationnels au sein de la Police nationale

Poursuivant l'expérience de la Mission EUPOL-KINSHASA dans la coordination des moyens de maintien de l'ordre sur la capitale durant la période dite de la sécurisation des élections, les autorités congolaises ont souhaité développer le principe de centres opérationnels destinés à améliorer la coordination et l'action des moyens policiers dans les interventions. Les policiers européens assureront les actions de suivi, conseil et encadrement des policiers congolais dans la mise en place de ces instruments de coordination.

L'engagement de l'UE dans le domaine de la réforme de la police en RDC s'inscrira sur le long terme. La durée de la mission EUPOL RD CONGO est initialement de douze mois, jusqu'au 30 juin 2008.

Il est à noter que les deux Missions PESD, EUPOL RD CONGO et EUSEC RD CONGO, ont vocation à développer des synergies communes pour la réalisation des objectifs définis.

EUSEC RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 12 June 2007

COUNCIL 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, Article 25, third paragraph, and Article 28(3), first subparagraph thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Further to an official invitation from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 2 May 2005 the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP on the European Union mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)⁽¹⁾ (EUSEC RD Congo), in particular in order to support the transition process in the DRC, including the formation of a restructured and integrated national army, as established by the Global and Inclusive Agreement signed by the Congolese parties in Pretoria on 17 December 2002, followed by the Final Act signed in Sun City on 2 April 2003.
- (2) 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 the comprehensive reform of the security sector, the drawing up of a national plan, and priority reforms in the police, armed forces and judicial sectors.
- (3) The United Nations has reaffirmed its support for the transition process and the reform of the security sector (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 15 May 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1756 (2007) extending MONUC's mandate and allowing it, in close coordination with other international partners, and especially the European Union (EU), to contribute to efforts to support the government in the initial process of planning security sector reform.
- (4) The European Union has consistently shown its support for the transition process in the DRC and for the reform of the security sector, including by the adoption of two other Joint Actions: Joint Action 2004/847/CFSP of 9 December 2004 on the European Union Police Mission in Kinshasa (DRC) regarding the Integrated Police Unit (EUPOL Kinshasa)⁽²⁾ and Joint Action 2006/319/CFSP of 27 April 2006 on the European Union military operation in support of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process⁽³⁾ (Operation EUFOR RD Congo).

(1) OJ L 112, 3.5.2005, p. 20. Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2007/192/CFSP (OJ L 87, 28.3.2007, p. 22).

(2) OJ L 367, 14.12.2004, p. 30. Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2006/913/CFSP (OJ L 346, 9.12.2006, p. 67).

(3) OJ L 116, 29.4.2006, p. 98. Joint Action repealed by Joint Action 2007/147/CFSP (OJ L 64, 2.3.2007, p. 44).

- (5) As it is aware of the benefits to be gained from a comprehensive approach combining the different initiatives underway, the EU indicated in the conclusions adopted by the Council on 15 September 2006 that it was prepared to assume a coordinating role in international efforts in the security sector, in close cooperation with the United Nations, to support the Congolese authorities in this field.
- (6) On 14 May 2007, the Council approved a revised General Concept on continuation of the mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- (7) On 14 May 2007, the Council approved an operations concept relating to a police mission conducted under the European Security and Defence Policy on security sector reform (SSR) and its interface with justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, referred to as EUPOL RD Congo. On 12 June 2007 the Council adopted the Council Joint Action on the 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 (DRC) (EUPOL RD Congo). That mission will replace EUPOL Kinshasa.
- (8) The synergies between the two missions EUPOL RD Congo and EUSEC RD Congo should be promoted, taking into account also the prospect that the two missions may eventually become a single mission.
- (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 15 February 2007 the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/112/CFSP⁽¹⁾ appointing Mr Roeland VAN DE GEER as the new EUSR for the African Great Lakes Region.
- (11) The Secretary-General/High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (SG/HR) sent a letter to the DRC government dated 11 May 2007 stating the European Union's renewed commitment.
- (12) Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP has been amended several times in order to boost the mission, most notably by Joint Action 2005/868/CFSP with regard to setting up a technical assistance project on the modernisation of the chain of payments of the Ministry of Defence in the DRC and by Joint Action 2007/192/CFSP on the establishment of a unit responsible for specific projects financed or implemented by the Member States and advisers at provincial military administration level. The mission's mandate runs until 30 June 2007 and should be extended and revised in the light of the revised concept for the mission.
- (13) For the sake of clarity, the said Joint Action and the successive amendments thereto should be replaced by a new Joint Action.
- (14) Third States should participate in the project in accordance with the general guidelines defined by the European Council.
- (15) 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,

(1) OJ L 46, 16.2.2007, p. 79.

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 contributing to completing the integration of the various armed factions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and of contributing to Congolese efforts to restructure and rebuild the Congolese army. The mission must provide advice and assistance directly to the responsible Congolese authorities or by means of concrete projects, 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.
2. The mission shall operate in accordance with the mission statement set out in Article 2.

Article 2

Mission statement

The mission shall aim, in close cooperation and coordination with the other actors in the international community, in particular the United Nations, and in pursuit of the objectives laid down in Article 1, to provide practical support in the field of reform of the security sector in the DRC, as set out in the revised General Concept, including:

- (a) providing advice and assistance to the Congolese authorities in their work to integrate, restructure and rebuild the Congolese army, particularly by:
 - I contributing to the development of various national plans and policies, including work on horizontal issues which cover all the areas involved in the reform of the security sector in the DRC,
 - I providing support for the committees and bodies involved in that work, and contributing to the definition of the priorities and practical needs of the Congolese;
 - (b) running and bringing to completion the technical assistance project on the modernisation of the chain of payments of the Ministry of Defence of the DRC, hereinafter referred to as the 'chain of payments project', so as to carry out the tasks specified in the General Concept for the project;
 - (c) identifying and contributing to the development of various projects and options that the European Union or its Member States may decide to support relating to the reform of the security sector;
 - (d) supervising specific projects financed or initiated by the Member States in pursuit of the objectives of the mission and overseeing their implementation, in coordination with the Commission;
- and
- (e) contributing to ensuring that all efforts made as regards SSR are consistent.

Article 3

Structure of the mission

The mission shall be structured as follows:

- (a) an office in Kinshasa, composed of:
 - I the mission leadership,

- I experts assigned to a team responsible for contributing to the reform of the security sector conducted by the Congolese administration at inter-ministerial level, and
 - I experts assigned to a unit responsible in particular for identifying and supporting the specific projects financed or implemented by the Member States;
- (b) advisers assigned to key posts at the Ministry of Defence’s central administration in Kinshasa and to the provincial administrations coming under that Ministry;
- (c) a team responsible for the chain of payments project comprising:
- I a project leader, based in Kinshasa, appointed by, and acting under the authority of, the Head of Mission,
 - I an ‘advice, expertise and implementation’ division, based in Kinshasa, composed of staff not attached to the general staff of the integrated brigades and including a mobile team of experts involved in checks on the military personnel of the integrated brigades, and
 - I experts assigned to the general staff of the integrated brigades.

Article 4

Implementation plan

The Head of Mission, assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council, shall draw up a revised implementation plan (OPLAN) for the mission for approval by the Council.

Article 5

Head of Mission

1. General Pierre Michel JOANA shall be appointed Head of Mission. He shall assume day-to-day management of the mission and shall be responsible for staff and disciplinary matters.
2. In implementing the mission statement as set out in Article 2(d), the Head of Mission shall be authorised to have recourse to financial contributions from the Member States. To that end, the Head of Mission shall enter into arrangements with the Member States concerned. These arrangements 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 European Union 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.
3. The Head of Mission shall sign a contract with the European Commission to execute the budget for the mission.
4. The Head of Mission shall cooperate 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 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 through the EUSR.
6. The EUSR shall report to the Council through 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 implementation plan and the chain of command. It shall also include powers to take subsequent 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 EUSR shall provide the Head of Mission with the political guidance required to fulfil his duties at local level.
3. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
4. 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.

Article 9

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount to cover expenditure relating to the mission shall be EUR 9 700 000.
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, with the exception that any pre-financing shall not remain the property of the Community. 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 Secretary General/High Representative, 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 security sector reform in the DRC, and as regards the sharing of functions between the two missions.
4. In accordance with his mandate, the EUSR shall ensure consistency between the activities of the EUSEC and EUPOL missions. He shall contribute to coordination with the other international players involved in security sector reform in the DRC.
5. The Head of Mission shall cooperate with the other international players present, in particular MONUC and the third States involved in the DRC.

Article 12

Release of classified information

1. The Secretary-General/High Representative 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⁾.

(1) Decision 2001/264/EC (OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1). Decision as last amended by Decision 2005/952/EC (OJ L 346, 29.12.2005, p. 18).

2. The Secretary-General/High Representative shall be authorised further to release to the United Nations, in accordance with the operational needs of the operation, 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.

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 European Union.

4. The Secretary-General/High Representative 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⁽¹⁾.

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 Community 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 Community 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 EUSEC RD Congo.

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 on security measures shall be provided for all staff, in accordance with the implementation plan (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 Political and Security Committee shall, on the basis of a report by the General Secretariat of the Council presented at the latest in March 2008, approve recommendations to the Council for

(1) Decision 2006/683/EC, Euratom (OJ L 285, 16.10.2006, p. 47). Decision as amended by Decision 2007/4/EC, Euratom (OJ L 1, 4.1.2007, p. 9).

a decision to be taken as to whether the two missions, namely EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo, should become a single mission.

Article 16

Entry into force and duration

This Joint Action shall enter into force on 1 July 2007.

It shall apply until 30 June 2008.

Article 17

Publication

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

Done at Luxembourg, 12 June 2007.

For the Council

The President

W. Schäuble

Middle East Peace Process – Statement of the Quartet

16 June 2007

Following is the text of the statement by the Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – on their June 15 telephone call.

In a telephone call on June 15, Quartet Principals shared their deep concern over the welfare and security of all Palestinians – especially those in Gaza, whose lives have been most seriously affected by the ongoing crisis.

The Quartet expressed its support for efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of Palestinians and called for respect for the human rights of all those in Gaza and the safety and security of international workers. It called for an urgent end to the violence, and the cooperation of all parties to ensure appropriate security and access conditions for the passage of humanitarian goods and personnel both within the Gaza Strip and at key crossing points.

The Quartet expressed understanding and support for President Abbas' decisions to dissolve the cabinet and declare an emergency, given the grave circumstances. The Quartet recognized the necessity and legitimacy of these decisions, taken under Palestinian law, and welcomed President Abbas' stated intention to consult the Palestinian people at the appropriate time. The Quartet noted its continuing support for other legitimate Palestinian institutions.

The Quartet supports the efforts of responsible regional states to help calm the situation, and will continue to promote a negotiated, comprehensive, just and lasting Middle East peace in line with relevant UN security council resolutions.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Brussels, 17-18 June 2007

AFGHANISTAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council reaffirmed the EU’s strong, long-term commitment to Afghanistan, as expressed by the European Council on 14 December 2006. The Afghanistan Compact and the Joint EU-Afghanistan Political Declaration remain a comprehensive framework for increasing EU engagement with Afghanistan.

In the framework of this overall commitment in favour of stability and development in Afghanistan, the EU reaffirms its support for the Government of Afghanistan’s efforts to promote and extend the rule of law through development of the police, courts, prisons and the wider justice system, including its counter-narcotics efforts, to the regional and provincial level.

The Council welcomes the launch of an EU police mission to Afghanistan with linkages to the wider concept of rule of law. The mission will work towards an Afghan police force under local ownership, that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law. The mission will build on current efforts, and will pursue a comprehensive and strategic approach. In doing so it will address issues of police reform at central, regional and provincial levels. The Council also welcomes the launch of the Commission’s new justice programme, which will support key reforms in the judiciary, focussing on institutional reforms and legal aid. The ESDP mission (‘EUPOL Afghanistan’) and the European Commission’s Justice programme reflect enhanced EU engagement in the rule of law sector in Afghanistan.

In this context, the Council also welcomes the planned Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan, which will be held in Rome on 2 and 3 July 2007, as an opportunity to increase the international community’s commitment to reform in the Afghan justice sector, and to enhance the Afghan Government’s awareness in this area.

The Council also welcomed the meeting of G8 Foreign Ministers with the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan on 30 May 2007 in Potsdam, and endorsed the “Joint Statement on the G8 Afghanistan-Pakistan Initiative”. The strengthening of regional cooperation and the development of an open and constructive dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan will play an important role in the overall reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. This issue should feature prominently on the agenda of the next JCMB meeting. The Council therefore calls on both countries to put their commitments in this regard into practice. The EU and its Member States will play their part in the implementation of this initiative.’

UGANDA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council reaffirms its strong support for the ongoing peace talks in Juba between the Government of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), aimed at ending the long-running conflict in Northern Uganda, which also has had a devastating impact on the wider region, particularly in terms of the many civilians killed, abducted and displaced. The cessation of hostilities agreement is of fundamental importance for the whole process.

2. The Council welcomes the appointment of former President of Mozambique, His Excellency Joaquim Chissano, as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for LRA affected areas and commends his efforts to support the mediation process, including through direct intervention with both parties. It also welcomes the contribution of the African Union to the mediation effort and commends the continuing mediation offered by the Government of Southern Sudan, notably through its Vice-President, Dr. Riek Machar, as chief mediator.

3 The Council underlines the continued importance of reaching a peace deal which provides both peace and justice to the local communities, and which is compatible with the wishes of the local communities, national laws and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

4. The Council welcomes the improvements in the security and humanitarian situation in Northern Uganda, whilst recognising that up to one million people remain displaced, and urges the Government of Uganda to continue to address the humanitarian and development needs of the local communities, in fruitful cooperation with the local authorities, NGOs, the UN system and others.

5. The EU reaffirms its commitment to maintaining its significant humanitarian assistance to Northern Uganda and to provide support to the peace process, as appropriate. It urges the Government of Uganda to prioritise its assistance focused on long-term recovery and development in Northern Uganda and offers assistance to the Government's efforts on this regard. The EU will work with the Government of Uganda and the international community to this end.

6. The Council underlines the importance of the Government of Uganda continuing to strengthen the democratisation process and respect for human rights and the rule of law. In this regard, it expresses its concerns regarding certain negative tendencies, including the gradual deterioration of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, manifested most notably through the case against the People's Redemption Army suspects, and regarding human rights violations in the violent forced disarmament process in the Karamoja region.

7. The Council commends the Government of Uganda for the constructive role that it plays in the region with regard to the establishment of an East African Union, the Great Lakes Conference, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as relations with Rwanda and Burundi. It encourages the Government to maintain a policy of non-interference in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Council also commends the Government of Uganda for deploying, under very difficult circumstances, an internationally mandated peace-keeping mission in Somalia.'

(...)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

The Council adopted a Decision appointing Mr Miroslav Lajčák as the European Union's special representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period from 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008. (10096/07)

Mr Lajčák will replace Mr Christian Schwarz-Schilling, who was appointed special representative in 30 January 2006.

See also: statement by High Representative Javier Solana welcoming the appointment of Mr Lajčák and press release 10947/07.

(...)

ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF SMALL ARMS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council endorsed a report on implementation of the EU's strategy against the accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition.

The EU strategy, adopted by the European Council in December 2005, builds on existing EU policies and actions in this area and puts them under a common heading. It includes an action plan calling for continuous monitoring by means of implementation reports every six months.

The Council also adopted the following conclusions:

'The threat to peace, security and development posed by the destabilising accumulation and spread of SALW continues to be a matter of grave concern to the whole international community. SALW including their ammunition are instrumental in the deaths of more than 500,000 people annually, with the vast majority of the victims being civilians. The Council therefore reiterates its determination to address the issue of SALW including their ammunition. Recognising the interdependence of human security and human development, the EU is committed to a comprehensive and coherent approach to combat, and to contribute to ending, the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and ammunition. In the pursuit of these objectives the EU is guided by the Strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition, which was adopted by the European Council on 15-16 December 2005. We welcome the significant progress made by the EU and its individual Member States in the implementation of the Strategy and the action plan contained in it.

The Council stresses its full support for the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, adopted on 20 July 2001. The UN Programme of Action provides the basis and benchmark of all efforts undertaken at the global level. We recall the need for complementarity at the global, regional and national levels in implementing this Programme of Action, and underline the EU's determination to contribute to this course. The Council deplores that the UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action in Summer 2006 ended without the adoption of a final document. It welcomes subsequent Decisions by the UN General Assembly to hold the next Biennial Meeting of States under the UN Programme of Action in 2008, and underlines its determination to actively ensure further follow-up and implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

The Council notes with satisfaction the important contribution made since 2001 by the EU and its individual Member States towards combating the illicit trade in SALW including their ammunition. With its comprehensive approach to issues of human security, which encompasses in particular control and reduction as well as collection and disposal of SALW and ammunition, but also border control, legal reform and public awareness, the EU together with its individual Member States is the largest contributor with regard to SALW- and ammunition-related project work and technical cooperation worldwide.

Ammunition plays a decisive role in the escalation and prolongation of armed conflict and the spread of organized crime. The Council therefore welcomes the increasing attention to the issue of ammunition. The Council supports the Decisions taken by the UN General Assembly with regard to considering the issue of ammunition in more detail and encourages active involvement in this process. It also supports on-going work on the issue of stockpiles of conventional ammunition in the framework of the OSCE.

The absence of effective and efficient management and security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles represents a major source for the illicit trafficking in SALW including their ammunition as well as a threat to the civilian population and the environment. Against this background, the Council welcomes the conclusions drawn at the Expert Meeting “Enhancing controls and promoting reductions in stockpiles of conventional arms and ammunition” held in Berlin from 3 to 4 April 2007. It underlines its readiness to provide technical cooperation with regard to the management and security of stockpiles by offering training, advice in infrastructure improvements as well as on technical and administrative measures including marking and record-keeping.

The Council underlines the need to enact and improve SALW legislation in many regions and countries in the world, including legislation and controls to regulate arms exports, imports, transfers and brokering activities of SALW. The EU and its individual Member States reaffirm their commitment to support and assist national, regional and global initiatives that strengthen such controls, and promote their implementation.

The Council draws attention to the need to combat illicit air transport of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Air transport is one of the main channels for the illicit spread of SALW including their ammunition in many regions. The Council recognises the importance of applying appropriate controls and security measures to prevent illicit air transport and encourages the continuation of on-going work within the framework of the OSCE and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

The Council welcomes the increasing awareness world wide of the negative impact of the proliferation of SALW and armed violence on sustainable development and on the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals. In this respect the EU and its individual Member States support global, regional, and national initiatives to reduce this burden and to make measurable progress in the prevention and reduction of the SALW proliferation and armed violence. The Council also welcomes efforts to integrate SALW control and armed violence reduction measures into national development planning frameworks.

The Council reiterates the role of regional as well as sub-regional cooperation to counter the illicit supply and destabilising spread of SALW including their ammunition. Regional seminars and information exchange on best practices inter alia within the ASEAN Regional Forum, the EU-AU, the EU-LAC and other regional processes contribute to building confidence, political will and commitment to address the spread of SALW and their ammunition. The Council underlines its continued commitment to cooperation related to SALW including their ammunition in particular with partners in Sub-Saharan Africa. In this respect it welcomes the adoption of an ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)-EU Joint Declaration on Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons on 24 April 2007.’

INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE TREATY – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council welcomes the start of practical work towards the elaboration of a legally binding international Arms Trade Treaty. The Council notes that in January 2007 the UN Secretary-General sought the views of UN Member States on the feasibility, scope and draft parameters of a comprehensive, legally binding instrument with a view to establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The Council is encouraged

to note that a large number of States have so far contributed to this process, further demonstrating ongoing and growing international support for this initiative, and acknowledges the active participation by EU Member States in this process. The European Union experience with its own export control system demonstrates the feasibility of agreeing on an instrument without depriving States of their national prerogative to licence or deny individual exports, and confirms the effectiveness and efficiency of a multilateral export control mechanism.

The Council underlines the importance of co-operation with other States and regional organisations in the process of elaborating an Arms Trade Treaty. It expresses its firm belief that a comprehensive, legally binding instrument, consistent with existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law and establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, would be a major contribution to tackling the undesirable and irresponsible proliferation of conventional arms which undermines peace, security, sustainable development and full respect for human rights.’

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION – EU STRATEGY

The Council endorsed a progress report on implementation of the EU’s strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, adopted by the European Council in December 2003.

The six-monthly progress report covers EU activities in the first half of 2007 and was prepared by the office of the High Representative’s personal representative for non-proliferation, in coordination with the Commission.

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Presidency report on ESDP

The Council approved a Presidency report on European security and defence policy (ESDP) with a view to its submission to the European Council on 21 and 22 June.

The report covers all ESDP issues discussed in the first half of this year and includes terms of reference for the incoming Portuguese Presidency.

EU military exercise MILEX 08/CPX

The Council approved draft exercise specifications for the EU military exercise MILEX 08/CPX, which will focus on the interaction between an EU operation headquarters and an EU force headquarters.

The EU will conduct the exercise in the framework of an EU exercise programme approved by the Council in June 2006.

(...)

SUDAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. As the crisis in Darfur continues, the humanitarian and security situation remains dis-

troubling. The Council is particularly alarmed by the continuation of violence and condemns the renewed bombings of civilians by the Sudanese Air Force in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1591, as well as the attacks by rebel factions on AMIS personnel. The Council reiterates its call upon all conflict parties to abide by the existing ceasefire agreements, to respect the neutral role of AMIS and to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Darfur. The EU welcomes the first steps taken towards implementation of the Joint Communiqué on Facilitation of Humanitarian Activities in Darfur agreed by the Government of Sudan and the UN. As member of the High Committee charged with monitoring its implementation, the EU will continue to urge further progress. The EU for its part will undertake to identify options for improving humanitarian access. It stands ready to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, to ensure humanitarian deliveries and protection of civilians.

2. Emphasising its continued commitment to a peaceful resolution of the crisis, the Council recalls that it is the primary responsibility of the Sudanese parties to end the suffering of the people of Darfur by finding a sustainable political solution to the root causes of the conflict. In line with Resolution 1591, the Council will consider any party failing to constructively engage in this process as an obstacle to peace and will promote appropriate further measures against them, notably in the UN framework. Those violating the human rights of civilians must be held responsible. In this context, the Council reiterates its support for the International Criminal Court in its efforts to end impunity for atrocities committed in Darfur. Following the Court's decision to issue arrest warrants against two individuals, the Council urges the Government of Sudan to comply with the requests for their extradition.

3. Stressing the need for an inclusive political solution to the conflict in Darfur, the EU reaffirms its full support for the joint AU/UN initiative to revitalise the political track. It welcomes the consensus reached in Tripoli on 29 April by all relevant regional and international actors that their efforts shall be co-ordinated under the leadership of the AU and UN Special Envoys. The Council further welcomes the proposal by the Special Envoys for a Road Map towards negotiations as well as the first steps taken by them to increase capacity of the Joint Mediation Support Team. In this regard, the EU welcomes the positive contribution by the SPLM to reinvigorate the political process. The EU calls upon all rebel movements to step up their efforts to formulate a common platform for negotiations and encourages regional actors to ensure greater coordination of their initiatives with the AU and UN Special Envoys.

4. The Council welcomes the forthcoming international meeting on Sudan in Paris with a view to further strengthening international support for the AU/UN initiative and the participation of key international and regional stakeholders in the meeting.

5. The EU recognises that sustainable peace across Sudan, including Darfur and the Eastern part of the country, cannot be achieved without the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). It underlines that a failure in the North/South peace process could jeopardize the situation in Darfur as well. The Council urges the parties to intensify their efforts to speed up its implementation and calls upon all other political forces to constructively engage in this process. Of particular importance will be the full redeployment of armed forces by July 2007 in accordance with the CPA, and an acceleration of the preparations for national elections.

6. The EU reiterates its continued support for AMIS and stresses the need to strengthen the mission in the period of transition to the AU/UN hybrid mission. In this context, the Council welcomes recent decisions, including by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, securing the contin-

uation of much-needed EU financial support for AMIS through the replenishment of the African Peace Facility. As a first step, a sum of 40 million euros will be released in June 2007. The Council also welcomes the announcements of voluntary contributions by Member States. In view of the pressing need for additional funds to cover all AMIS expenses, the Council encourages AMIS partners to continue their support and urges other international partners to also contribute to the mission.

7. The Council emphasises the need to further strengthen and expand the peacekeeping mission in Darfur, and in this context welcomes Sudan's acceptance on 12 June of the AU/UN hybrid operation as described in the joint AU/UN report of 5 June 2007. The Council is further encouraged by the constructive discussions on this issue during the UNSC visit to Sudan on 17 June and expects the Sudanese Government to swiftly take action to effectively facilitate the deployment of the UN Heavy Support Package to AMIS, and, subsequently, the hybrid operation. It calls upon the AU and the UN to ensure a speedy transition to the hybrid operation and reiterates its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs its implementation.

8. The Council expresses its continued deep concern about the impact of the Darfur crisis on the humanitarian and security situation in neighbouring countries. It however notes as a positive development the recent high-level contacts in Saudi Arabia between the governments of Sudan and Chad aimed at improving their bilateral relations, and encourages both countries to continue and intensify these efforts. The Council supports endeavours by the UN to prepare the deployment of a multidimensional UN presence in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic and looks forward to the report of the UN fact-finding mission to Eastern Chad as the basis for further discussions.

9. The Council will continue to look at how best to reinforce and develop its engagement in pursuit of the objectives set out in these conclusions and invites the General Secretariat of the Council, the Commission and the relevant bodies of the Council to work in this regard with a view to possible decisions.'

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'SERBIA

1. The Council welcomed the fact that the new government in Belgrade had shown clear commitment and had undertaken concrete and effective action for full co-operation with the ICTY, and that this had enabled the Commission to resume negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia.

2. The Council encouraged the Serbian authorities to build on this positive dynamic, to vigorously pursue the necessary reforms to bring Serbia closer to the European Union and to continue its efforts to ensure that all remaining fugitive ICTY indictees are brought to justice. The Council recalled that the pace and conclusion of the negotiations on the SAA would in particular depend on Serbia's progress in developing the necessary legislative framework and administrative capacity to implement its obligations under the Agreement, and on full co-operation with ICTY. The Council and the Commission will jointly review Serbia's performance in these areas before the decision to sign is taken by the Council.

3. The Council reaffirmed that Serbia's future lies within the European Union and that the Union stands ready to work with Serbia towards this goal.

SERBIA/KOSOVO

4. The Council confirmed its support to UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and reiterated its view that his comprehensive proposal submitted by the UN Secretary General to the Security Council on March 26, 2007, provides the basis for the settlement of the Kosovo issue by a new Resolution of the United Nations Security Council. The Council expressed its support for intensified efforts to ensure that the Security Council can adopt such a resolution in a timely manner, also as a basis for a future EU and international presence.

5. The Council underlined the necessity of rapidly finding a solution to the Kosovo Status issue, which is essential as a basis for a democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo committed to the rule of law as well as for maintaining and reinforcing regional stability.

6. The Council reaffirmed its conviction that resolving the pending status of Kosovo constitutes a *sui generis* case that does not set any precedent.

7. The Council underlined that the EU stands ready to play a significant role in the implementation of the status settlement. Preparations for a future EU and international presence in Kosovo are being intensified in coordination with other international actors.

VISA FACILITATION AND READMISSION AGREEMENTS

8. The Council welcomed the initialling of the agreements on visa facilitation and readmission with Albania¹, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The conclusion of such agreements will promote people-to-people contacts between the EU and the Western Balkan countries and will increase the opportunities for travelling, especially for the younger generation.

9. Recalling the Thessaloniki Agenda, the Council also acknowledged the importance the people of the Western Balkans attach to the perspective of visa-free movement. In this respect, it welcomed the efforts of the Commission to take these issues forward in concrete terms. Furthermore, the Council underlined the desirability of promoting people-to-people contacts by also making available more scholarships for the students of the region.

10. Therefore the Council looks forward to a prompt conclusion of all necessary procedures to ensure that the agreements enter into force as soon as possible.'

IRAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The Council deplores the fact that Iran has still not complied with its international obligations as reiterated in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1747. Iran has instead continued to drive forward its nuclear programme as well as further restricting its cooperation with the IAEA, thus creating further doubts as to the exclusively peaceful nature of its programme. Whilst reaffirming its commitment to finding a diplomatic solution that addresses the international community's concerns, the Council also reasserts its full support for the UNSC and its resolve, as expressed in Resolution 1747, to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter should Iran continue

1. The EC/Albania readmission agreement entered into force on 1 May 2006.

not to comply with its international obligations.

The Council again urges Iran to respond positively to the proposals put forward by the Foreign Ministers of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, in their Statement of 24 March 2007. The Council also reaffirms its support for the exploratory efforts of the High Representative of the EU, Javier Solana with Dr. Ali Larijani and strongly urges Iran to engage constructively in these consultations and to create the necessary conditions for negotiations to resume.'

(...)

MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Peace Process – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council expresses its deep concern regarding the extremely serious events in Gaza. The Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the violent coup perpetrated by Hamas militias, in particular attacks against and the destruction of the legitimate security services of the Palestinian Authority, the summary execution of many of its members, the attacks against hospitals and the cruel treatment of captives. The Council deeply deplores the loss of human life, including civilians and humanitarian workers. The Council calls for the immediate cessation of all violence and hostilities, including in the West Bank, and for the restoration of law and order. All those responsible for criminal acts in violation of the standards safeguarded by international humanitarian law and of fundamental human rights must be held accountable.
2. The Council supports the Arab League's call for restoring Palestinian National unity and the unity of Palestinian territory. The Council also supports ongoing efforts by the Egyptian government to mediate a cease-fire. It appeals to all the countries of the region to join these efforts and to help stop the supply of weapons to the militias.
3. In calling for an urgent political solution of the crisis, the EU expresses its full support for President Abbas and his decisions taken within his mandate to declare a state of emergency and to install an emergency government for the Palestinian Territories under Prime Minister Fayyad, underlining the importance of the Palestinian basic law. All Palestinian parties should abide by his decisions. It recalls that reconciliation and national unity behind the programme of peace articulated by President Abbas is the only way to achieve Palestinian national goals.
4. Gravely concerned by the critical humanitarian situation in Gaza, the EU will do its utmost to ensure the provision of emergency and humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza, whom it will not abandon. Unimpeded access to humanitarian aid deliveries must be guaranteed. The extension of the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) for a further three months until September 2007 will also contribute to the emergency relief. The EU calls on Israel to facilitate the provision of humanitarian help.
5. The Council reiterates its call on Israel for the immediate release of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues.
6. The EU will resume normal relations with the Palestinian Authority immediately. With this objective, the EU will develop the conditions for urgent practical and financial assistance including:

- direct financial support to the government;
- support to the Palestinian Civilian Police through the resumption of EUPOL COPPS;
- the resumption of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) Rafah;
- intensive efforts to build the institutions of the future Palestinian state.

7. In the current circumstances it becomes all the more urgent to take forward a credible peace process which can give the Palestinian people the perspective of an independent, democratic and viable state living side by side with Israel, and bring peace and stability to the Middle East.'

Lebanon – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions on Lebanon:

'1. The Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the assassination of Member of Parliament Walid Eido, his son and others on 13 June. It recalls that MP Eido and other personalities targeted since 2004 had distinguished themselves by their struggle for an independent, sovereign and stable Lebanon, free of foreign interference. The Council supports the efforts by the Lebanese Government and the security forces to bring the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these ruthless acts to justice and to ensure security and stability throughout Lebanon. It urges all actors in Lebanon to unite in the face of attempts to destabilize the country.

2. The Council remains determined to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence and reaffirms its support for the legitimate and democratic government of Prime Minister Siniora.

3. The Council strongly condemns the attacks on Lebanese security forces by terrorist groups operating from the Palestinian refugee camps at Nahr el Bared and Ain el Hilweh, and the recent bomb attacks. It deplores the loss of life and human suffering caused by the terrorist violence, including the killing of two Lebanese Red Cross workers on 11 June. The Council is deeply concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the outbreak of violence at Nahr el Bared. It calls on all sides to seek to improve this situation, to respect humanitarian principles and to protect civilians, including by allowing unrestricted access by humanitarian workers. The EU and its Member States will continue to provide humanitarian aid to the civilian population affected by the fighting.

4. The Council reiterates the need for disbanding and disarming all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias as called for by UNSC Resolution 1559. There should be no weapons in Lebanon without the consent of its Government and no authority other than that of its Government.

5. The Council reaffirms its commitment to the full and speedy implementation of Resolution 1701 and all other relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

6. The Council welcomes the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1757 which brings into force the agreement on the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The Council calls on all states and all parties to fully cooperate with the Special Tribunal.

7. The Council reiterates its call on all political forces in Lebanon to search for a solution to the current political deadlock and to develop the widest possible consensus for the forthcoming election of the President of the Republic. Dialogue and full respect for the democratic institutions of the country should be the guiding principles of the political process, in the interest of all Lebanese people. The Council calls on all Lebanese actors to reach an intra-Lebanese agreement and urges all parties in the region to refrain from destabilizing the country.'

(...)

European Council

Brussels, 21-22 June 2007

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

(...)

I. Treaty reform process

8. The European Council agrees that, after two years of uncertainty over the Union's treaty reform process, the time has come to resolve the issue and for the Union to move on. The period of reflection has provided the opportunity in the meantime for wide public debate and helped prepare the ground for a solution.

9. Against this background, the European Council welcomes the report drawn up by the Presidency (doc.10659/07) following the mandate given to it in June 2006, and agrees that settling this issue quickly is a priority.

10. To this end the European Council agrees to convene an Intergovernmental Conference and invites the Presidency without delay to take the necessary steps in accordance with Article 48 of the TUE, with the objective of opening the IGC before the end of July as soon as the legal requirements have been met.

11. The IGC will carry out its work in accordance with the mandate set out in Annex I to these conclusions. The European Council invites the incoming Presidency to draw up a draft Treaty text in line with the terms of the mandate and to submit this to the IGC as soon as it opens. The IGC will complete its work as quickly as possible, and in any case before the end of 2007, so as to allow for sufficient time to ratify the resulting Treaty before the European Parliament elections in June 2009.

12. The IGC will be conducted under the overall responsibility of the Heads of State or Government, assisted by the members of the General Affairs and External Relations Council. The Representative of the Commission will participate in the Conference. The European Parliament will be closely associated with and involved in the work of the Conference with 3 representatives. The General Secretariat of the Council will provide the secretariat support for the Conference.

13. Having consulted the President of the European Parliament, the European Council invites the European Parliament, in order to pave the way for settling the issue of the future composition of the European Parliament in good time before the 2009 elections, to put forward by October 2007 a draft of the initiative foreseen in Protocol 34 as agreed in the 2004 IGC.

14. The incoming presidency is invited to ensure that the candidate countries are kept fully and regularly briefed throughout the Intergovernmental Conference.

II. Justice and Home Affairs

15. On the basis of the Tampere and Hague Programmes significant progress has been made in developing the Union as an area of freedom, security and justice. The European Council stresses the need to continue the implementation of those programmes and to work on the suc-

cession to them in order to further strengthen Europe's internal security as well as the fundamental freedoms and rights of citizens.

16. Recent events have demonstrated once again the need to make rapid progress in developing a comprehensive European migration policy based on common political principles, capable of taking account of all aspects of migration (the migration and development agenda, as well as internal aspects such as legal migration, integration, protection of refugees, border control, readmission and the fight against illegal migration and human trafficking), based on a genuine partnership with third countries and fully integrated into the Union's external policies. The European Council welcomes the progress already made in implementing the priority actions focussing on Africa and the Mediterranean, including the recent EU missions to Africa and concrete cooperation with African and Euromed partners, as part of the Global Approach to Migration and calls for work on these priority actions to be taken forward and intensified. The European Council also welcomes the Commission's Communication of 16 May 2007 on applying the Global Approach to Migration to the eastern and south-eastern regions neighbouring the EU. Acknowledging the need for intensified and more coordinated cooperation with these regions, the European Council endorses the Council Conclusions of 18 June 2007, including the list of priority measures. The European Council calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated, within the existing financial framework, in order to enable the timely implementation of the comprehensive migration policy.

17. The European Council underlines the importance of closer cooperation with third countries in managing migration flows. Specific partnerships on migration with third countries could contribute to a coherent migration policy which combines measures aimed at facilitating well-managed legal migration opportunities and their benefits – while respecting Member States' competences and the specific needs of their labour markets – with those fighting illegal migration, protecting refugees and tackling the root causes of migration while at the same time impacting positively on development in countries of origin. The possibility of mobility partnerships should be further explored as well as possibilities for circular migration in the light of the Commission's communication of 16 May 2007; in this context the European Council endorses the Council conclusions of 18 June 2007. The European Council is convinced that illegal employment is one main pull factor driving illegal immigrants. It accordingly underlines the importance of the proposal for a Directive providing rules to avoid the illegal employment of third country nationals.

18. The European Council reaffirms the need for the Union's capacity to contribute to the management of the external borders of Member States to be reinforced and underlines the importance of continuing to strengthen the capacity of FRONTEX for this purpose. Joint operations at Member States' external borders are contributing to the fight against illegal migration and to saving lives and must therefore be maintained. The European Council therefore welcomes the agreement reached on the establishment of Rapid Border Intervention Teams, the launching of the Coastal Patrol Network, and the creation of a centralised 'toolbox' of technical equipment available to be put at the disposal of Member States. The European Council calls for every effort to be made by all concerned for the Rapid Border Intervention Teams to become operational as soon as possible and for the new possibilities created by the Coastal Patrol Network and the 'toolbox' to be used to the full, including the stepping-up and strengthening of joint patrols. Recalling the Hague Programme, the European Council reaffirms that

European solidarity and fair sharing of responsibilities are among the founding principles guiding Europe's activities in managing the EU's external borders, in accordance with the integrated management system.

19. The European Council welcomes the recent agreement on the Regulation on the Visa Information System and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas as well as the Council Decision on access for consultation of the VIS by designated authorities of Member States and by Europol for the purposes of prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences. Along with the development of modern means of control and identification, these are further important steps in improving exchanges of information between the Member States, thus contributing to improving the management of the common visa policy and the security of citizens. The European Council calls for swift implementation of the VIS Regulation and the Council Decision.

20. The European Council likewise welcomes the efforts that have been made in order to improve the continued and deepened cooperation at EU level and between Member States in the area of integration and intercultural dialogue. The European Council welcomes, in particular, the Council Conclusions of 12 June on the strengthening of integration policies in the EU by promoting unity in diversity. It emphasises the importance of further initiatives to facilitate the exchange of experiences on integration policies of the Member States.

21. The European Council reaffirms its commitment to realising, as part of the comprehensive European migration policy, the Common European Asylum System by the end of 2010.

22. The European Council will review the state of implementation of the comprehensive migration policy at its next meeting in December 2007 on the basis of an interim progress report from the Commission. This report should include progress on the application of the Global Approach to Migration to Africa and the Mediterranean as well as first progress on the application of the Global Approach to Migration to the eastern and south-eastern regions neighbouring the European Union.

23. The extension of the Schengen area will improve the everyday lives of citizens and accordingly continues to be a high priority for the EU. The European Council welcomes the preparatory work undertaken through the SIS One4All project and encourages the Member States participating in the project to continue their endeavours to meet all the requirements as set out in the Council (JHA) conclusions of 5/6 December 2006 for the lifting of controls at internal borders at the land and sea borders at the end of December 2007 and at air borders by March 2008 at the latest, provided that all these requirements have been met. At the same time the European Council urges the Commission to complete the remaining work within the scheduled time frame in order to finalise the SIS II project by December 2008 at the latest.

24. Particular efforts must continue to be made to strengthen police and judicial cooperation and the fight against terrorism. Europe's citizens expect the EU and its Member States to take decisive action to preserve their freedom and security, particularly in the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

25. The recent decision to integrate the essential provisions of the Prüm Treaty into the Union's legal framework will help to intensify cross-border police cooperation. In the same context the European Council underlines the importance of strengthening further Europol's operational capabilities and welcomes the decision of the Council to transform the Europol Convention into a Council Decision, in accordance with the Council's (JHA) conclusions of 12/13 June 2007.

26. Safeguarding citizens' rights is as vital to creating an area of freedom, security and justice as ensuring protection for Europe's citizens. In this respect the European Council in particular requests the Council to reach agreement before the end of the year on the Framework Decision on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

27. The European Council calls for work on procedural rights in criminal proceedings to be continued as soon as possible in order to contribute to increasing confidence in the legal systems of other Member States and thus to facilitate the mutual recognition of judicial decisions. The recent overall agreement on the Framework Decision on combating certain forms of racism and xenophobia is a clear signal for a Europe committed to the fight against intolerance.

28. In the interest of European citizens rapid agreement is needed on the Regulations on the applicable law relating to contractual obligations (Rome I), on jurisdiction and applicable law in matrimonial matters (Rome III) and on maintenance obligations.

29. The Council is requested to continue its work on evaluating the consistency and coherence of the provisions of contract law in Community law, including consumer contract law.

30. The European Council acknowledges the progress made in developing legislation for the exchange of information on national criminal convictions on a European basis and requests the Council to ensure that national criminal records systems become inter-connected through a European network as soon as possible. The Council should also further promote electronic communication on legal matters ("E-Justice") in the criminal as well as the civil areas.

31. The European Council welcomes the communication from the Commission on the fight against cybercrime and calls for the development of a policy framework in this field.

(...)

IV. External Relations

European Neighbourhood Policy

45. The European Council reaffirms the paramount importance of the ENP, which aims at consolidating a ring of prosperity, stability and security based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as supporting the process of reform and modernisation of partners in the Union's neighbourhood.

46. The European Council endorses the Council Conclusions on strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Presidency Progress Report, which includes a set of measures to further strengthen Neighbourhood Policy. While the ENP's character as a single and coherent policy framework should be maintained, implementation of the Policy should take due account of the specificity of partner countries. The European Council invites future Presidencies to continue work on the basis of the Presidency Report and relevant Commission proposals and communications.

Central Asia

47. The European Council adopted an EU strategy for a new partnership with Central Asia. This strategy will serve as an overall framework for EU relations with Central Asia, including in the fields of human rights, rule of law, good governance and democracy, education, economic

development, trade and investment, energy and transport, environmental policies, migration and inter-cultural dialogue. The strategy defines the EU's priorities for its cooperation with the region as a whole, but implementation will be tailored to the specific requirements and performance of each Central Asian state. The European Council asks the Council and the Commission to regularly review progress in implementing this strategy and to submit a first progress report to the European Council by the middle of 2008.

Heiligendamm Process

48. The European Council, recalling the development of EU instruments and dialogue fora with emerging economies, welcomes the initiation of the Heiligendamm Process by the G8 Summit in June 2007 launching a new form of dialogue in particular with Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. The European Council recognises the ever-growing importance of these and other emerging economies. The Heiligendamm Process should intensify the political dialogue and foster cooperation with these countries, especially in the fields of innovation and intellectual property, investment conditions including responsible business conduct, energy efficiency and development cooperation.

EU-Africa

49. The second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007 will provide an important opportunity to enhance the relationship between the EU and Africa and to build an ambitious and strategic new partnership.

50. Recalling its conclusions of June 2005, the European Council underlines the importance it attaches to the further close cooperation with the African Union to ensure that a Joint EU-Africa strategy can be adopted by December 2007. The European Council reaffirms the commitment to continue support for the African Union, with a view, inter alia, to strengthening the African Union's capacity in conflict management, resolution and prevention. The European Council welcomes the intention to establish an Africa EU energy partnership at the EU-Africa Summit.

51. The European Council stresses the need for new arrangements allowing early release of EU funds to support AU rapid deployment which should be addressed as a priority. The Council reaffirms the commitments undertaken in the EU Strategy 'The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership' and encourages Member States to make all efforts to reach the targets set therein.

European Security and Defence Policy

52. The European Council endorses the Presidency Report on ESDP, which includes the mandate for the incoming Presidency.

(...)

ESDP PRESIDENCY REPORT

1. In line with the mandate defined by the European Council in December 2006, 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

Western Balkans

Operation ALTHEA

3. The EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Operation ALTHEA**, continued with the operational focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment and on transferring Joint Military Affairs (JMA) tasks to relevant national authorities. Co-operation between EUFOR ALTHEA and EU partners in theatre, in particular EUPM and the EUSR continues to work well.

4. In line with Council's 11 December 2006 decision concerning on a transition of Operation ALTHEA, the Political and Security Committee (PSC), on 27 February 2007, approved a revised Operations Plan (OPLAN). The implementation of the first phase of the transition, (i.e. re-configuration and reduction) of EUFOR, started on 28 February and was completed on 28 April, ahead of schedule.

5. The Council reviewed Operation ALTHEA on 18 June and welcomed the positive contribution of the operation to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The Council approved the SG/HR's recommendations for Operation ALTHEA in the light of the advice received from the EU Military Committee and underlined the continued need for an EU military presence to provide reassurance and to react to any possible security challenges. The EU remains committed to BiH. As part of its overall engagement, the EU will retain its military presence as long as necessary in order to continue contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment. Co-operation with NATO continued to work well in respect of Operation ALTHEA.

EUPM

6. Following the submission of the report and plan for police restructuring in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Directorate for the Implementation of Police Restructuring on 3 January 2007, the role of the **EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina** (EUPM) in the process, leading to a political agreement on police reform, remained limited to providing policing expertise. However, in anticipation of police restructuring, EUPM identified issues which can be harmonised and is preparing practical steps to facilitate later implementation of elements of the reform.

7. EUPM has successfully assumed the leading role in coordinating the policing aspects of the ESDP efforts in the fight against OC and continued to mentor and advise local authorities in their fight against organised crime and followed a targeted approach that was based on its own comprehensive assessment and analysis of the organised crime situation and the capacity of the police services of Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUPM kept an updated consolidated overview of the EU Coordination Board activities in the fight against organized crime and corruption

(‘targeting grid’) and conveyed deliberations and recommendations of the Board to meetings of local senior police officials under the National Intelligence Model. EUPM’s approach has created some momentum among those elements of the BiH police ready to take up sensitive cases in the fight against organised crime.

8. EUPM also continued to mentor and advise local authorities with a view to strengthening the links between the police and the judicial sector, including through holding a conference of high-level police officials and prosecutors from all jurisdiction levels. In the broader framework of EUPM’s efforts to promote police accountability, the mission identified, also based on the findings of inspections carried out, a set of recommendations to all police administrations to adopt specific anti-corruption strategies. EUPM has a mandate until 31 December 2007. Discussions concerning possible next steps have been initiated.

EUPT Kosovo / ESDP Mission Kosovo

9. The EU has continued its preparations for a future civilian ESDP crisis management mission in Kosovo after a status settlement. The **EU Planning Team for Kosovo (EUPT Kosovo)**, set up in April 2006, has been reinforced and extended by the Council until September 2007. Since the adoption by the Council of a crisis management concept for the future ESDP mission in Kosovo on 11 December 2006, planning has proceeded with the development of a draft concept of operations. Cooperation with all relevant international stakeholders in Kosovo was undertaken both on the ground and in Brussels. In particular, draft technical arrangements on future cooperation between the ESDP mission and KFOR have been developed. Preparatory work for taking over essential equipment from the UN has been taken forward. In addition, work has started on the staffing requirements of the future mission, with job descriptions distributed and a workshop organised with Member states, as well as a comprehensive assessment of the training needs for the personnel of the future mission, which has been financed by the European Commission. Contacts have also increased with third states that could contribute to the future ESDP mission, including through a workshop at the end of May.

Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus

EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia

10. The mandate of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus was extended until 29 February 2008, prolonging also the activities of the **EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia**. The team continues its work on assisting in the development of a strategy for reform of the Georgian Border Guard service, and its work in the field, including in developing Standard Operating Procedures at sector level. Following the presentation of a progress report of the BST, Member States also gave consideration to introducing further related activities during the current mandate period, and consequent recruitment and reshuffles of posts have taken place. In January 2007 the Commission and the EU Special Representative for the Southern Caucasus carried out a mission at expert level to Georgia including conflict areas.

EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine

11. The **Border Team of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova** continued its activities in contributing to developing better cooperation at the Transnistrian segment of the border between Moldova and Ukraine. The activities of the Border Team have been prolonged until 29

February 2008, following the extension of the mandate of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova. The work of the Border Team of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova took place in close collaboration with the **EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine)**, EUBAM is a TACIS project, staffed to a large extent by seconded experts from EU Member States. EUBAM promotes coordinated action of and assists the governments of Moldova and Ukraine in areas involving border, customs and fiscal matters, including through monitoring activities. EUBAM is based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Governments of Moldova and Ukraine. The Memorandum of Understanding establishing the EUBAM is being extended for an additional period of 24 months starting from the 1st December 2007. The Head of EUBAM is also carrying out the function of Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR for Moldova, whose mandate will continue until 29 February 2008, including the Border Team.

Middle East

EUJUST Lex

12. Since July 2005, the EU has been contributing towards strengthening the rule of law in Iraq and to promoting human rights through its Integrated Rule of Law Mission, **EUJUST LEX**. EUJUST LEX works with EU member states to provide training courses and work experience secondments in EU member states for senior Iraqi judges, prosecutors, senior members of the police force and senior penitentiary personnel. So far, 1044 Iraqi personnel have been trained. EUJUST LEX works closely with Iraqi interlocutors in order to ensure that it delivers training which corresponds to Iraqi needs. The mission has played an active part in supporting the development of the 'Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Criminal Justice in Iraq (CSPI)' which was officially introduced in Baghdad on 23 March 2007 by the Chief Justice of Iraq (CJ). EUJUST LEX will continue to work in partnership with all Iraqi ministries and international bodies to improve and implement the plan. EUJUST LEX has a mandate until 31 December 2007. Discussions concerning possible next steps after that date have been initiated.

EUBAM Rafah

13. The **EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah)** continued its third party presence role based on relevant agreements between the Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel. The situation in the Gaza Strip did not change from the previous semester, and the terminal has been able to open only sporadically, thus limiting the number of people passing through the crossing point. The EU and its Member States have repeatedly called upon all Parties to enable the border to open on a regular basis whenever possible. This has helped to alleviate in part the humanitarian situation of the people living in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, the Mission, together with the EC, has started preparing for upgrading the terminal and training Palestinian Customs Officers in view of allowing both vehicle and commercial traffic towards and from Egypt. On 23 May 2007, the Council agreed on the extension of the EUBAM Rafah mandate for an additional year.

EUPOL COPPS

14. The **EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)** was launched on 1 January 2006 with a three-year mandate in order to assist the Palestinian Civilian Police in

establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements. EUPOL COPPS has, during the reporting period, continued to contribute to facilitate peace and ease tension. Given the outcome of the Palestinian legislative elections of early 2006 and subsequent Quartet statements, the Mission has scaled down its active involvement with the Palestinian Civil Police and adapted its activities in line with the Quartet principles.

Africa

EUFOR RD Congo

15. After the successful conclusion of operation EUFOR RD Congo and the subsequent redeployment of all EUFOR forces the Council adopted on 27 February 2007 a Joint Action repealing Joint Action 2006/319/CFSP which launched the European Union military operation in support of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process.

16. Operation EUFOR RD Congo in support of the MONUC during the electoral process in the DRC again demonstrated the EU's preparedness and ability to support through concrete action the efforts deployed by the UN to secure peace and stability and to engage in close cooperation with the UN at all levels.

EUPOL Kinshasa

17. The **EU police mission in Kinshasa** (EUPOL Kinshasa) has continued with its mentoring, monitoring and advising mission in support of the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) in DRC. The mission has especially completed a whole range of specialized training and courses aimed at enhancing the operational level of the IPU. The IPU is regarded by the Congolese as a very efficient, well trained and equipped police force operating in the capital. EUPOL Kinshasa now focuses on the proper integration of the IPU within the framework of the upcoming reform of the Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC). As the transition process in DRC is completed, the mission has released its reinforcement element which was set up to assist in the coordination of the crowd control units in Kinshasa. The reinforcement element has significantly contributed, along with the EU military operation *EUFOR RD Congo*, to the positive security developments in the capital during the elections. Since the beginning of 2007, the mission has benefited from the support of 4 Security Sector Reform (SSR) experts who have started working on the reform of the PNC. The mission will terminate on 30 June 2007.

EUPOL RD Congo

18. **EUPOL RD Congo**, the new ESDP police mission and its interface with justice, is expected to take over from EUPOL Kinshasa as of 1 July 2007. The mission will assist the Congolese authorities in the reform and restructuring of the Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC), and in the improvement of the overall functioning of the criminal justice system, through a justice interface. The mission will also contribute to the overall efforts in support of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) in DRC, in close coordination with the other actors engaged in SSR, especially the other ESDP mission *EUSEC RD Congo* as well as the Delegation of the European Commission in Kinshasa.

EUSEC RD Congo

19. The mission EUSEC RD Congo has continued to fulfil its mandate in the field of Security Sector Reform since May 2005. Following the installation of the newly elected government in February 2007, the security situation remained quite tense as demonstrated by last March's dramatic events in Kinshasa. This confirmed the necessity for EUSEC RD Congo to maintain a high priority to assisting Congolese authorities in carrying out the integration process of combatants from former factions. The mission's technical project on improving the chain of payments of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the DRC has made significant progress in achieving the modernisation of the administration, including through the provision of Communication and Information systems. The salaries for the personnel of the integrated brigades have been increased and their payment is ensured more regularly. The census of the Armed Forces has been initiated using biometric means which will overtime greatly increase the efficiency of human resources' management. On 14 May 2007, the Council has approved the Revised General Concept for prolongation of EUSEC RD Congo until July 2008, while keeping the perspective of a possible single ESDP mission in the field of Security Sector Reform in 2008. The mission is to be reinforced by additional counselors who will be present within the territorial administration of the Ministry of Defence. Thus EUSEC RD Congo will gradually put an added focus on helping the Government to restructure and reconstruct its armed forces.

EU civilian-military supporting action to the African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS II)

20. The EU has continued its **civilian-military supporting action for the African Union (AU) Mission (AMIS)** in the Darfur region of Sudan. A further financial contribution of 40 MEURO is being provided to support the Mission under the African Peace Facility (over 280 MEURO in total). The EU is continuing to give military assistance in the form of technical support and expertise, throughout the AMIS command structure, along with other financial and logistic support, including strategic air transport, provided by EU Member States. The EU also provides the Vice President of the Cease Fire Commission.

21. EU police officers continue to play a key role in building AMIS civilian policing capacity through support, advice and training for the AMIS police chain of command and police officers on the ground. The EU is also continuing its support for the development of AU policing capacity and the establishment of a police unit within the AU Commission in Addis Ababa.

22. The deployment of the UN Heavy Support Package was approved in April and additional troops are expected to reinforce AMIS later in 2007. The EU worked closely with the UN and the AU to support implementing the UN Heavy Support Package with the perspective of transitioning to a full AU/UN hybrid mission. The EU has also maintained close and effective co-ordination with institutional and bilateral donors and worked closely and effectively with the UN, as well as with NATO regarding military support in theatre.

23. The EUSR for Sudan has continued to play a key role in co-ordinating the EU's support to the AU with other donors and actors in the region and continues to provide support to the AU and the UN in their efforts to take forward the political process in Darfur.

EU support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

24. On 19 January 2007, the Peace and Security Council of the AU agreed on the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The EU is providing financial support to

AMISOM under the African Peace Facility (15 MEURO in total) and the Instrument for Stability. On 23 April 2007 Council approved the Joint Action 2007/245/CFSP amending Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union mission in the Darfur region of Sudan with regard to the inclusion of a military support element providing assistance to the setting up of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Asia

EUPOL Afghanistan

25. Building on the EU's and Member States' substantial engagement in Afghanistan, and following the Council's approval of a Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for an **EU police mission to Afghanistan** with linkages to the wider rule of law on 12 February 2007, the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the mission EUPOL Afghanistan was approved by the Council on 23 April 2007. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN will aim at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system under Afghan ownership and in accordance with international standards. Counter Narcotics will be addressed as a crosscutting theme. The mission will work towards a joint overall strategy of the international community in police reform, including through the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB), and help coordinate participating donors' police reform efforts. It will support the Government of Afghanistan in coherently implementing the strategy, through monitoring, mentoring, advising and training at the central, regional and provincial levels, as appropriate.

26. With the assistance of the Head of Mission, planning is underway for the mission. Mission launch is anticipated for mid-June 2007. The planning for the mission is being closely coordinated with the European Commission, particularly in regard to its planned justice reform programme, and with the EUSR in Kabul. The Council General Secretariat is also working closely with the NATO International Staff on the provision of technical support by ISAF in theatre, and with the US, which will be a crucial counterpart in the coordination of strategy for police reform efforts. Furthermore, consultations with the Afghan authorities are ongoing and constructive.

Financing of operations

27. The Council adopted on 14 May 2007 a decision which codifies the original decision of 23 February 2004 establishing ATHENA, a mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications, notably in the light of subsequent amendments to that decisions agreed in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

II. Lessons Learned

28. On 29-30 January, the German Presidency and the EU Institute for Security Studies organised a seminar entitled '**ESDP: from Cologne to Berlin and beyond. Operations-Institutions-Capabilities**' in Berlin. The aim was to take stock of the achievements accomplished since the launch of ESDP and to discuss the challenges and priorities for the coming years. Over 130 senior national and European officials as well as prominent experts gathered for

a rich and productive exchange. In this context, HR/SG Javier Solana elaborated on his intention to introduce a Civilian Operation Commander responsible for the direction and support of civilian Heads of Mission.

EUFOR RD Congo

29. The first stage of the Lessons Learned Process for operation EUFOR RD Congo was concluded. It allowed in particular the identification of gaps concerning the ability to conduct early planning in sufficient detail, inter alia, to allow Member States to assess their potential force contributions and to provide appropriate expertise along the decision-making process. The SG/HR has been requested to address shortcomings in the EU Military Staff's ability to conduct planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations and to submit a report with recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Council at its meeting in November 2007.

AMM

30. In light of the successful completion of the **Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM)** on 15 December 2006, the Presidency engaged in the identification of lessons both on the EUASEAN cooperation in the light of the AMM experience and on issues such as the Planning phase, Human rights and gender issues, DDR, Mission Support, Public Information and Press.

31. On 20 February 2007, the Political and Security Committee took note on EU-ASEAN Cooperation in the light of the experience of the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) prepared by the mission. The AMM played a decisive role in making the Aceh peace process a great success, the collaboration between the EU and five contributing countries from ASEAN has contributed in a significant manner to this success.

32. On 3 April 2007, the PSC endorsed 'Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) – Lessons Identified and Recommendations', prepared by the Council Secretariat, together with the European Commission and the AMM Liquidation team members. AMM, as well as Initial Monitoring Presence (IMP), have provided since the beginning valuable experience for further conceptual work on ESDP Civilian Crisis Management and also for operational planning.

The planning and set-up of the AMM constituted a real challenge, due to the very tight timeframe imposed by the political process. In less than two months, however, the EU managed to plan and deploy the mission, thus delivering an efficient monitoring presence from the date of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the both parties in Helsinki on 15 August 2005.

33. A consistent theme identified throughout the review was the need for handbooks and guidelines for staff, especially on Human Rights and financial issues and the need for increased expertise in areas such as Human Rights, Reintegration, Public Information and Press and Mission Security. An overarching need exists for increased and better training at many levels. Rapid deployment of an EU civilian crisis management mission remains to be addressed, in terms of procedures, financing and personnel.

III. Capabilities

Development of civilian capabilities

34. The Council approved the **Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management**. This document clarifies the command and control structures in civilian ESDP crisis management operations. It sets out the functions, roles and responsibilities of the Civilian Operation Commander (CivOpCdr). The Civilian Operation Commander, when appointed, will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian ESDP operations under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR.

Civilian Headline Goal 2008

35. In accordance with the Civilian Capabilities Improvement plan, noted by the Council on 11 December 2006, implementation of the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 (CHG 2008) process in the first semester of 2007 focused on Mission support capabilities; Co-operation with non-EU States, international organisations (IOs) and non-governmental Organisations (NGOs); Lessons Learned from the CHG 2008 Process and civilian-military coordination.

Mission Support Capabilities

36. A list of Member States' replies to the CHG 2008 Questionnaire on required international **mission support personnel** and other international personnel of 9 November 2006 was noted by the competent Council bodies.

Co-operation with non-EU States, international organisations (IOs) and non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)

37. An updated overview of possible contributions from non-EU States to the EU civilian crisis management capability, containing indications from Canada, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine, was noted by the PSC.

38. In April 2007, the Council Secretariat organized a first workshop with experts from **non-EU States, IOs and NGOs**, signalling the important contribution of these actors in this field. The aim of this workshop was to exchange information about civilian crisis management capability development, including best practices in the field of training, recruitment and deployment of civilian crisis management personnel, and to identify areas for closer cooperation. The findings of this workshop were presented to the competent Council bodies in late May 2007.

Lessons Learned from the CHG 2008 Process

39. In March 2007, an expert workshop was held on **lessons learned from the CHG 2008 process**. The aim of this workshop was to consolidate findings of the ongoing civilian capability development experience and improve the future format of the process. Its objective was to collect ideas and recommendations on a possible future civilian capability development process under ESDP beyond 2008 by discussing lessons learned so far in the CHG 2008 process. Findings of this workshop have been presented to the competent Council bodies in May 2007 and will be used for the definition of a possible future civilian capability development process.

Civil-Military Cooperation

40. In June 2007, an expert workshop took place on civilian and military capability planning.

Capabilities Improvement

41. In follow-up to the Civilian Capabilities Improvement plan, a self-assessment questionnaire was distributed among Member States to take stock of progress made in enhancing civilian capabilities at a national level.

CRT concepts and deployment

42. Initial lessons learned and proposals for further implementation of the CRT concept were agreed in March, including an inventory of the availability of CRT experts and areas of expertise in the CRT pool, and consideration of organising an additional CRT call for contributions and induction course to reach the target of 100 experts covering all relevant areas. CRT experts were deployed on an individual basis for the first time in DRC and Afghanistan. A first call for CRTs for initial presence as a team was made in April to facilitate the set-up of the future EUPOL Afghanistan.

Mission Support

43. In the field of human resources, the revision of the European Commission Communication on CFSP Special Advisors and their staff is under way and will contribute to the improvement of the contract regime for international contracted staff. Through providing daily allowances to international contracted staff, the new policy should significantly help in attracting qualified personnel to fill those posts where secondments are not available.

Framework Contracts

44. In the field of procurement, technical work proceeded on the establishment of framework contracts to acquire essential mission equipment and services for civilian ESDP. The first contracts to be concluded will cover health and high-risk insurance, financial liability insurance and strategic transportation, followed with communications and IT equipment and vehicles.

Rapid availability of financing

45. Lack of rapid availability of financing has been identified as a problem for the operational capacity of civilian crisis management operations in the start-up phase. In accordance with the remit following the informal meeting of Heads of state or government at Hampton Court, work has been taken forward to find practical solutions to this problem in order for the EU to be able to launch civilian ESDP operations more rapidly and effectively. Accordingly, the Financial Regulation (FR) and its implementing rules have been amended to provide for possibilities for financing of preparatory measures agreed by the Council *inter alia* to assess the operational requirements, to provide for rapid initial deployment of resources or to establish the conditions on the ground for the launching of civilian crisis management operations.

Development of European Military Capabilities

46. Within the Headline Goal 2010 process and following the agreed Roadmap to the Progress Catalogue, the Force Catalogue 2006, which presents Member States' contributions against the required capabilities as defined in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 (RC 05), was revised to incorporate Bulgaria's and Romania's contributions. This revision resulted in the **Force Catalogue 2007** (FC 07), which was noted in February together with its supplement by the Council, which also approved its transmission to NATO for information purposes.

47. Contributions from non-EU European NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession to the EU are presented in the Supplement to FC 07.

48. Based on the FC 07, the Assessment phase – as part of the Scrutinising-Assessing-Evaluating (SAE) process – was conducted, in order to identify shortfalls in the totality of capability contributions against the RC 05. Member States took the opportunity to offer additional contributions and reduced the identified deficits. The Assessment, taking into account the additional contributions, is the precondition for the following Evaluation.

49. The methodology for the evaluation of the potential operational implications of the shortfalls has been developed in the Evaluation Handbook. This evaluation is the next step towards the establishment of the **Progress Catalogue 2007** (PC 07), to be submitted to the Council in November 2007. This catalogue will provide a comprehensive assessment of EU military capabilities needed to fulfil the requirements set out in the Requirements Catalogue. The Progress catalogue will identify all military shortfalls and categorize them in terms of their possible implications on ESDP operations (potential operational risk). This will allow the derivation of military recommendations on their prioritisation and mitigation, in order to serve as a platform for shortfall management and future capability development.

50. The study on **Operational Analysis (OA) tools and techniques** as well as on an **Information Gathering (IG) Tool** for the support of the EU military capability development process, continues in line with the CDM with European Defence Agency's (EDA) participation. An analysis of data regarding tools and techniques available or currently under development and provided by Member States and the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A) is being conducted.

51. The migration of the **European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP) Project Groups (PGs)** within the European Defence Agency processes has been completed. A possible way ahead for the future of the remaining ECAP PGs, which concentrate on concepts, doctrines, training, planning guides and operating procedures, is under development.

52. On 1 January 2007, the EU reached the **Full Operational Capability (FOC)** to undertake two **Battlegroup** (BG) size rapid response operations, including the ability to launch two such operations nearly simultaneously. Member States made a multinational Maritime Task Group available in order to support their EU BGs available in the first half of 2007, if required. At the successful six-monthly BG Co-ordination Conference held on 3 May, Member States confirmed their commitments, some of which include participation of European NATO non-EU countries, and made important additional offers allowing the BG schedule to be completed up to the first half of 2010. Additional offers are still necessary to fill vacant slots identified from the second semester of 2010 onwards. At this conference, lessons identified from the BG standby periods were discussed by Member States.

53. Work has started on a possible revision of the **EU Military Rapid Response Concept**, based on a Tri-Presidency (Germany-Portugal-Slovenia) Food-for-Thought paper, in a joint perspective and taking into account the comprehensive approach to crisis management, bearing in mind the EU's level of ambition as laid down in the Headline Goal 2010 process. This paper aims at developing procedures to generate forces rapidly. These forces would be drawn from the Force Catalogue 2007 and additional voluntary force contributions by Member States. This work, which will be concluded by mid-2008, will take due account of the results of the Rapid Response Air Initiative Study and Maritime Rapid Response Concept, which should be elaborated by mid-2007.

54. Workshops were organised in January, March, April, May and June 07 on the Study for the **Rapid Response Air Initiative** in ESDP. Taking into account the air capabilities listed in the RC 05, Member States' experts considered including a possible mechanism allowing the rapid generation of air forces that would be drawn from the FC 07 and additional voluntary contributions by Member States. Furthermore, Member States experts identified refinements for the capability packages listed in the Requirements Catalogue 2005, with a view to offering interoperable sub-components to an air operation such as contributing to a European deployable air base and air assets.

55. With regard to the **Maritime Dimension in ESDP**, the EUMC noted the Maritime Dimension Study in December 2006 and tasked the EUMS to further develop a 'Maritime Rapid Response Concept' on the basis of the study.

56. The main elements of the recommendations of the **Global Approach on Deployability** (GAD) Study have been completed. The findings are shared with NATO, in line with the CDM, to ensure transparency and coherence and to progress in areas of common interest. The NATO Allied Deployment and Movement System (ADAMS) software was distributed to Member States and the EUMS in February. Work is being conducted to make this tool usable in strategic deployment planning for EU Crisis Management Operations.

57. In May, the Council noted the **Single Progress Report** on the development of EU military capabilities, which in accordance with the Capability Development Mechanism records progress made in the development of EU military capabilities in the first half of 2007, and agreed to forward it to NATO for information purposes.

IV. European Defence Agency (EDA)

58. The Council noted the Head of the Agency's report on the European Defence Agency's activities, which confirmed that the Agency was proving itself a fully effective instrument – with the development of major new strategies and the deepening of specific project activities.

59. Concerning long term strategies, the Agency made substantial progress on:

- ▶ Preparing a Capability Development Plan, with the establishment of a methodology and work underway on a roadmap for approval by the Capabilities Steering Board in June 2007 in coordination between participating Member States (pMS), the EUMC and the Agency;
- ▶ Developing a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB), with the adoption of a landmark Strategy to that aim by the ministerial Steering Board on 14 May;
- ▶ And initiating the development of a European Defence R&T Strategy, including the definition of key technologies for Europe, in view of submitting a draft to the Steering Board in the autumn.

60. The Agency has also successfully followed through initiatives launched last year:

- ▶ The successful implementation of the Code of Conduct on defence procurement, with the Electronic Bulletin Board (for advertising government-to-industry contracting opportunities) having made a good start and the launch of its complementary section for advertising industry-to-industry opportunities;
- ▶ The signature of the Programme Arrangement of the Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme on Force Protection, by the 19 contributing Member States meeting within the Steering Board of 14 May and by Norway, and the launch of the first call for proposals immediately after;
- ▶ And the progress made in the area of Software Defined Radio, with the Agency ensuring coordination between its activities and the ESSOR project launched by a group of pMS under the Agency's auspices, and securing complementarily of efforts with the Commission initiatives.

61. The intergovernmental regime to encourage competition in the European Defence Equipment Market procurement now will count 24 Member States following the Hungarian and Spanish decision to join from 1 July 2007.

62. Other note-worthy developments include:

- ▶ A new approach, supported by the Steering Board on 14 May, to promote Unmanned Aerial Vehicles by addressing the challenge of their insertion into regulated airspace, through an envisaged coordinated effort involving EDA, participating Member States, the Commission and Industry;
- ▶ The promising work towards the formation of an EDA category B ad hoc project on future 21st Century Soldier Systems;
- ▶ And the introduction of a European Defence Standardisation Information System.

63. Lastly, the Agency's portfolio of other R&T collaborative projects now totals some 60, with a combined value approaching 200 MEURO.

V. Civil-Military Cell and Operations Centre

64. The **Civil-Military Cell** continued to provide significant planning support to military and civilian ESDP operations, in particular Kosovo and Afghanistan. Additionally it has been decided that the Civil-Military Cell will provide a watch keeping capability (WKC) in order to ensure 24/7 links with the various military and civilian ESDP operations and Council General Secretariat actors. The WKC will be established within the Operations Centre without prejudice to its full activation for the planning and conduct of an autonomous EU military operation. Activation of the watch-keeping capability using the facilities of the Ops Centre in relation to each civilian operation should be confirmed in the respective Joint Action, and should be available during the preparation of each civilian operation.

65. The **EU Operations Centre** has reached operational capability, providing the EU with an additional capability to plan and run an autonomous EU military operation, in particular where a joint civil/military response is required and where no national Headquarters has been identified, once a decision on such an operation has been taken.

The activation of the EU Ops Centre, and its interaction with an EU FHQ, provided by Sweden, was exercised successfully for the first time during EU military exercise MILEX 07. Lessons identified will be presented in the Final Exercise Report (FER).

VI. EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

66. The **EU Satellite Centre** continued to provide products and services in support of ESDP related activities. This support covered support for ongoing EU operations and missions, in particular in relation to EU actions in the Balkan region, as well as activities regarding the fight against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and contingency planning. The EUSC has continued its close co-operation with the UN, in particular in support of MONUC (DRC) and UNDOF (Golan Heights), and has taken an active role in the framework of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security European initiative.

VII. EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

67. The **EU Institute for Security Studies** continued its work with regard to research, debate and analysis on security issues. The Institute provided a focal point for academic exchange, networking and monitoring of the European security agenda as well as a policy-oriented think tank supplying European policy-makers with analysis, advice and suggestions.

The Institute has furthermore deepened its support to ESDC activities and assisted the Presidency in the organisation of a high level conference 'ESDP – from Cologne to Berlin and beyond' in Berlin, on 29-30 January.

ESDP and Space

68. The work on the actions identified in the Initial Road Map for the 'European Space Policy: ESDP and Space' has continued. On 22 May 2007 the joint EU/ESA Space Council adopted a resolution which welcomed and supported the joint Commission/ESA document on European Space Policy, which includes a section on security and defence. It recognised that space technologies are often common between civilian and defence applications and that Europe can, in a user-driven approach, improve coordination between defence and civilian space programmes, pursuing in particular the synergies in the domain of security, whilst respecting the specific requirements of both sectors and the independent decision competences and financing schemes. The Council affirmed the need to set up a structured dialogue with the competent bodies of the Member States and within the EU's second and third pillars and the EDA for optimizing synergies between all aspects of the European Space Policy within the framework of the existing attribution of competences. It recognized that the use made by any military users of GALILEO or GMES must be consistent with the principle that GALILEO and GMES are civil systems under civil control, and consequently that any change to this principle would require examination in the framework of Title V/TEU and in particular Articles 17 and 23 thereof, as well as in the framework of the ESA convention.

69. On 16 March 2007, the EUISS held a seminar on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) with a view to raise stakeholders' awareness on the security dimension of GMES and to obtain guidance for implementation.

VIII. Civil-Military Co-ordination (CMCO)

70. In February, a methodology for identifying **Information Exchange Requirements** (IER) was noted by the Political and Security Committee. This work aims at defining operational requirements for exchanging information between all entities, both civilian and military, that may interact in support of ESDP operations with a view to a comprehensive approach. The establishment of an agreed IER will provide a reference point from which EU Network Enabled Capability (NEC) activities can be built.

71. A case study and recommendations on CMCO in the EU supporting action to the AU in Darfur was noted by PSC on 29 May 2007. This has fed into an overall compilation of practical recommendations on CMCO in theatre on the basis of experiences in BiH, Darfur and DRC to be noted by the PSC.

IX. Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR)

72. The Presidency, in co-operation with the Institute for European Politics (IEP), organised an expert seminar on 'EU Contribution to Disarmament, Demobilisation & Reintegration (DDR): A Look at Bosnia and Herzegovina'. The one-day event brought together policy makers and specialists to evaluate the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina twelve years after the Dayton Peace Agreement. It highlighted still existing challenges in the field of DDR with respect to i.a. the reduction of small arms and light weapons (SALW). The seminar also discussed the further role of the EU as an important actor for security and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

X. Human Rights and Gender Issues

73. At the PSC meeting on 1 June, the Presidency presented a handbook on 'Mainstreaming of Human Rights and Gender into ESDP' comprising the relevant documents adopted by the EU in this area that could be used or built upon in future planning documents, lessons learned processes and for training purposes. PSC also recommended that Heads of Missions and Force Commanders issue pocket cards – based on a generic pocket card to be developed by the relevant Council bodies – for ESDP Personnel, referring to general rules of behaviour, the protection of Human Rights, Gender issues, children affected by armed conflict and, as appropriate, the use of force.

74. Work continued to implement the checklists on Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UNSCR 1612 on Children and Armed Conflict in the context of ESDP. Human Rights and Gender issues have started to be systematically included in the planning and conduct of all ESDP operations, and subsequently evaluated in the lessons learned processes. The mandates of EUSRs now contain specific provisions to address Human Rights and Gender issues.

75. In the planning process of the upcoming missions of EUPOL Afghanistan, EUPOL RD Congo and ESDP Mission Kosovo, Human Rights and Gender issues have been taken into account from the early planning documents. For example, EUPT Kosovo plans for an entire Human Rights and Gender Issues Unit and EUPOL Afghanistan is recruiting a Human Rights and a Gender Advisor as part of its staff. EUBAM Rafah appointed a Gender Advisor. The

enlarged mission EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo will share the functions of Human Rights and Gender Advisor.

76. With the support of the Presidency, Hungary organised the first 'Gender and ESDP' Course in Budapest on April 18-20, 2007. The pilot course aimed at introducing participants to gender issues and their relevance to ESDP. In its conclusions of 15 May, the Council called for the course to be standardised and incorporated into the annual EU Training Programme relevant to ESDP and reiterated its view that emphasis should also be put on mission-specific training in this field.

XI. Conflict Prevention

77. The European Union continued its efforts in the area of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts and the European Security Strategy. Efforts were pursued to further strengthen its instruments both from a conceptual point of view and across the wide spectrum of its conflict prevention activities, with a view to enhancing coherence between the EU's various external policy instruments as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States.

78. Making use of both short term and long term instruments in conflict management undertaken in the framework of CFSP and ESDP, the European Commission and Member States' bilateral activities, the EU enhanced its effectiveness in responding to the crises and largely contributed to peace and stability around the world. The increase of geographical and thematic scope of the EU action, especially through the civilian and military crisis management operations, should be considered an important asset in strengthening the EU conflict prevention capacity.

79. Following the practice established under previous presidencies, a workshop 'Enhancing Cooperation with Major Players in Conflict Prevention' organised by the Madariaga European Foundation, the Folke Bernadotte Academy with support of the German Presidency was held in Brussels on 19 April 2007.

XII. Co-operation with Non-Governmental Organisations

80. To enhance the dialogue between NGOs and the members of Council preparatory bodies, the Presidency regularly invited **NGO representatives** to give **briefings to members of the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management** in accordance with the Recommendations for Enhancing Co-operation with NGOs and CSOs. Representatives from a variety of international NGOs (such as Swisspeace, Search for Common Ground, Amnesty International, International Center for Transitional Justice) presented briefings on Afghanistan, DR Congo, Gaza, Kosovo and Bosnia. Particular care was taken to ensure that NGO input would be given during the early stages of the planning phase for civilian ESDP missions.

81. A Conference on 'Partners in Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management: EU and NGO Cooperation' took place in Berlin on 20-21 June. The conference brought together 150 leading representatives from NGOs and the EU. It aimed to foster confidence between the EU and MS on the one hand and NGOs on the other. In preparation of this conference, a Policy Seminar 'Role of Civil Society – Learning from the Field' was organised on 29 March 2007 in Brussels that brought together representatives from NGOs, EU Institutions, MS Permanent

Representations and Academia. The Seminar focused on how to make EUNGO cooperation effective in the field and analysed case studies, but also provided a Headquarters and in-field perspective on ESDP missions and Community Programmes.

XIII. EU Training in the field of ESDP

82. In February 2007, the Council approved the EU Training Programme in ESDP for the years 2007-2009, which was made available on the web page of the Council where the details of the activities will be kept updated regularly.

83. Training activities in the field of ESDP of the various EU actors conducted in the previous years have been thoroughly evaluated in the **annual Final Training Report** and steps identified to further improve training activities have been approved by the Council, taking into account the need for a balanced approach between civilian and military training.

84. The **European Security and Defence College (ESDC)** successfully continued its training activities. A second General Annual Report has been adopted by the ESDC Steering Committee describing the activities conducted, the progress reached so far and the deficiency areas which still exist. The Steering Committee decided to include a course for press and public information officers as a regular course of the annual ESDC programme. France organised a successful ESDP pilot course on 'EU-Africa partnership on peace and security' in June, with the aim of improving the awareness of the challenges of crisis management in Africa and the role of ESDP.

85. On 25/26 June, for the second time, a **networking conference** is being organised by the Presidency which convenes policy makers in the field of training as well as representatives from national civilian, military, police and diplomatic training institutions dealing with training in the field of ESDP. This ESDP networking conference will be a forum for exchanging ideas, taking stock of education and training activities so far, finding common ground as well as identifying and addressing room for improvement.

86. In order to strengthen European military effectiveness, the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) followed up on a French initiative concerning the sharing of Member States' training facilities on a voluntary basis. A catalogue of these shared training facilities has been elaborated and is available online.

87. The increase and development of civilian crisis management operations has brought a greater focus to the need for training of civilian staff for crisis management operations. Many Member States participated actively in the European Community Project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management, considering it a very valuable additional element in the sense that it creates a European forum for exchange of views and best practices in the field of EU's civilian crisis management.

88. In view of launching a new ESDP mission in Kosovo, the Council Secretariat carried work forward in order to co-ordinate pre-mission training for key mission personnel. A comprehensive assessment of the training needs for the personnel of the future mission has been financed by the European Commission.

XIV. Exercises

89. The EU Military Exercise MILEX 07 was conducted from 7 to 15 June 2007. MILEX 07 exercised and evaluated military aspects of EU crisis management at the military strategic and operational level based on a scenario for an envisaged EU-led crisis management operation without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities. The activation of the EU Ops Centre, and its interaction with an EU FHQ, provided by Sweden, was exercised successfully for the first time. Lessons identified will be presented in the Final Exercise Report (FER).

90. The dates of the Initial Planning Meeting for the Military Exercise MILEX 08 are 19 and 20 June 2007.

91. The EU Exercise Programme Meeting took place on 28 February in order to discuss the Exercise Programme for 2008 to 2012. The Exercise Programme for 2008 has been adopted by the Council on 17 April 2007.

92. On 14 May 2007 the Council recalled the importance it attaches, in accordance with the EU exercise policy, to the planning and conduct of regular crises management exercises, including jointly with NATO and with the participation of all EU Member States.

93. The Post Exercise Discussion of the Exercise Study EST 06 took place on 01 March 2007. The Final Exercise Report has been noted by the PSC on 29 March 2007.

XV. ESDP and Africa, including ESDP support to strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

94. On May 14, 2007, the Council reaffirmed the importance it attaches to cooperation with African partners in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, and underlined its wish to see its further development in the context of the forthcoming EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007, where a Joint-EU-Africa strategy should be adopted.

95. In March, PSC had a discussion on the implementation of the EU concept on strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. This concept aims at supporting the AU's ongoing establishment of an African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including the creation of the African Stand-by Force (ASF). An action plan for implementation was also developed and approved.

96. In close association with the African partners and in co-ordination with the other partners involved, and in particular the UN, several concrete proposals were identified with a view to providing support to the development of the African Peace and Security Architecture, with a particular focus on making the African Standby Force (ASF) operational and enhancing AU and SRO's institutional capacities.

97. Recommendations and action plan aimed at strengthening the partnership between Africa and the EU in the field of African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts were adopted with a view to the swift implementation of the action plan, including the development of RECAMP into a European instrument, in order, i.a., to support the AU's operational certification of the ASF at the continental level. Other national programmes, both in Africa and in Europe may be made available, in support of the development of the ASF. The importance of developing options for long-term solutions on funding and operational support for African peace support operations was emphasized.

XVI. Co-operation with International Organisations, Mediterranean Partners and Third States

EU-NATO

98. The EU and NATO have continued to develop further their **strategic partnership in crisis management**. Regarding Operation ALTHEA, EU-NATO co-operation in the context of the 'Berlin Plus' arrangements has continued to work smoothly and efficiently in Brussels as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EU and NATO have moreover continued to cooperate, including through a joint airlift co-ordination cell in Addis Ababa, to ensure effective support for the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS). Through PSC-NAC meetings exchange of information took place on Operation ALTHEA; as well as on Kosovo with the participation of all EU Member States and NATO Allies. Preparations for future EU-NATO in-theatre cooperation in Kosovo and in Afghanistan benefited from meetings between the SG/HR and the NATO SG as well as EU and NATO staffs.

99. Co-operation has been facilitated through the permanent EU Cell at SHAPE and the NATO permanent liaison team at the EU Military Staff.

100. In the field of capability development, the **EU-NATO Capability Group** continued to exchange information where requirements overlap, in accordance with the Capabilities Development Mechanism. The Group discussed inter alia EU Battlegroups and the NATO Response Force as well as some specific capability areas of common interest such as Defence Data Gathering and Force Protection. All EU Member States were kept informed about these issues. Additionally, NATO experts have been invited to a meeting of the EU Military Committee Working Group / Headline Goal Task Force (HTF) in the 'HTF-Plus' format.

EU-UN

101. The EU and the UN agreed a Joint Statement on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management. Following intensified UN-EU cooperation, the EU and the UN agreed to build on the Joint UN-EU declaration of 2003 by, inter alia, holding more regular political dialogue at senior level, considering further steps to enhance cooperation, and by establishing mechanisms and lessons learned exercises for crisis situations where the UN and the EU are jointly engaged.

102. EU-UN co-operation has continued to be an important axis of the development of ESDP.

103. The EU is working closely with UNMIK on the ground and with DPKO in New York to ensure that there will be a seamless transition from UNMIK to the ESDP Mission in Kosovo. UNMIK has indicated that it will maintain operational strength until the very end of its mandate and EU planning foresees a build-up its personnel during the 120-day transition, with a number of personnel transitioning directly from UNMIK to the ESDP Mission on the day of transfer of authority.

104. The EU continued its efforts in support of the work carried out by the MONUC in DRC. During the Presidency, the EU worked on the planning for a new civilian mission in DRC. This mission, EUPOL RD Congo, will succeed EUPOL Kinshasa and will assist the Congolese authorities on police reform and its interface with the rule of law.

105. On the ground, a close co-operation between the EU and the UN was maintained regarding support to the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the ongoing implementation of the UN heavy support package to AMIS.

106. On 20 February 2007, the UN Security Council issued a Presidency Statement which underlines the importance of security sector reform. This was also in line with the EU efforts to further strengthen the co-operation between the UN and the EU in the DRC, where MONUC and EUSEC RD Congo participate in the co-ordination of security sector reform issues.

107. EU and the UN have carried on consultations at staff level, in particular considering the EU-UN co-operation during operation EUFOR RD Congo.

108. Meetings between representatives of both the EU and the UN continued, inter alia through the consultative mechanism, the EU-UN Steering Committee, which took place in New York on 30/31 May 2007.

109. The Presidency has organised a seminar on 'Military aspects of UN-EU co-operation in crisis management operations in the light of EUFOR RD Congo' (Berlin, 19-21 March 2007). The seminar provided a platform for around 150 representatives from EU Member States, the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations, the EU Council Secretariat, the EUFOR RD Congo and MONUC Headquarters as well as other organisations and think tanks to discuss EU-UN co-operation in military crisis management with a view to further improving the effectiveness of EU support to the UN. The findings of this seminar will be considered by the competent Council bodies.

EU-OSCE

110. The German EU Presidency coincided with the start of the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship, which ensured a smooth coordination of EU and OSCE activities during that period. Active debate of regional issues, such as Moldova, Kosovo, Central Asia and Caucasus, in both for a reflected common political priorities and interests between both organisations. On 23 January the EU-OSCE Troika held a meeting to exchange ideas on these topics.

111. On Kosovo, EU and OSCE cooperate in ensuring a good preparation of the forthcoming ESDP Rule of Law /Police Mission, pending the success of the status agreement talks under UN-auspices. Training and coordination were discussed during talks with the OSCE on Kosovo.

EU-AU and African Sub-Regional Organisations

112. On 20 February 2007, the Political and Security Committee requested the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission to take work forward on creating an EU representation to the AU. The representation will in particular support the EU/AU partnership, including on strengthening the AU's crisis management capabilities.

113. Discussions within the EU, as well as with African counterparts have taken place to prepare a joint EU/Africa strategy. On 15 May, the EU-Africa Ministerial Troika endorsed the outline for this joint strategy that will include security aspects.

Mediterranean Partners

114. Dialogue between the EU and Mediterranean Partners continued to be pursued with a view to strengthening co-operation in the field of security and defence. The Euro-Mediterranean Senior Officials Meeting devoted to ESDP took place on 13 June. Information

meetings also continued to be organised by the Secretariat for the benefit of Mediterranean Partners, including on EU exercises. Mediterranean Partners continued to participate in ESDP-Operations.

Third States: USA, Russia, Ukraine

115. Third states have continued to provide valuable contributions to a number of ongoing ESDP civilian operations: EUPM (Canada, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine), EUPOL Kinshasa (Canada and Turkey) and AMIS II (Canada). EUPOL Afghanistan and the forthcoming ESDP mission in Kosovo will benefit from the broad participation from third-country partners.

116. EU continued the close co-operation in ESDP crisis management with non-EU European NATO members, Canada and other third states. Participants from the third states, including from USA, Canada, Russia and Ukraine have been invited to attend the ESDP Orientation Course on 11-15 June. USA, Canada, Russia and Ukraine were also invited to receive information briefings in the context of Military Exercise MILEX 07.

USA

117. The close dialogue and co-operation with the US in the context of ESDP crisis management continued and was enhanced, including on Kosovo, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the DRC. At the EU-US Summit in Washington on 30 April, the parties adopted a declaration on political and security issues, including on crisis management, in order to deepen their strategic partnership based on common values. In the declaration agreed at the EU-US summit on 30 April 2007, the US indicated that it is looking forward to US participation in the future ESDP mission in Kosovo. In the margins of the EU-US Summit, the EU-USA Agreement on the security of classified information was signed, which has entered into force, allowing further progress.

Russia

118. In the framework of the Road Map for the Common Space on External Security, work continued to strengthen the dialogue with Russia on co-operation in crisis management. On 11 May, the Russian Chief of Defence met, at an informal session, with the EU Military Committee at the level of Chiefs of Defence.

Ukraine

119. The Council on 22 January 2007 has adopted the negotiating directives of the new 'enhanced' agreement between the EU and the Ukraine. The parties aimed to build increasingly close relationship and to enhance co-operation in foreign and security policy, including in crisis management. This co-operation has been further facilitated through the entry into force on 1 February of the Agreement between Ukraine and the EU on the security procedures for the exchange of classified information. Good contacts were pursued between the Ukrainian Chief of Defence and the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, who met on 10 May in Brussels. An expert level seminar with the participation of EU Council General Secretariat and Ukrainian MoD representatives took place in Kiev on 24-25 May, focusing on practical aspects of EU-UA co-operation in exercises, training and in crisis management operations.

XVII. Mandate for the incoming Presidency

120. On the basis of the present report and taking into account the European Security Strategy, the incoming Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative and in association with the Commission, is invited to continue work on developing the European Security and Defence Policy, and in particular:

- ▶ To prepare and ensure the effective implementation of decisions related to present and future operations and missions, both civilian and military. Special efforts should be done for the finalisation of the planning and launch in due time of the ESDP Rule of Law mission in Kosovo.
- ▶ To continue developing civilian capabilities aiming to, in the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Ministerial Conference in November, conclude the Civilian Headline Goal (CHG) 2008 and establish a new CHG.
- ▶ To implement, to the furthest extent possible, the new Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for the EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management.
- ▶ To continue work on the development of military capabilities in the framework of the Headline Goal 2010 on the basis of the agreed Roadmap, namely through the finalisation of the Progress Catalogue, which will serve as a platform for shortfall management and future capability development, in order to be submitted to the GAERC meeting in November.
- ▶ Based on the Tri-Presidency paper take forward work on a possible revision of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept in a joint perspective and taking into account the EU level of ambition as laid down in the HLG 2010 process.
- ▶ To foster work in view of fulfilling the Council's request to the SG/HR to address shortcomings in the EUMS's ability to conduct planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations and to submit a report with recommendations, as appropriate, for consideration by the Council at its meeting in November 2007.
- ▶ To take work forward on the Lessons Identified/Lessons Learned-process from Operation EUFOR RD Congo.
- ▶ Related to the civil-military co-ordination (CMCO), to continue the work on the establishment of Information Exchange Requirements which will provide a key reference point upon which EU Network Enabled Capability activities can be built.
- ▶ To support the European Defence Agency in its major approaches and activities and, in particular, the development of the Capability Development Plan.
- ▶ To continue implementing the EU exercise programme, including follow up to MILEX 07, the planning of Crisis Management Exercise CME 08 and planning of MILEX 08.
- ▶ To strengthen training relevant to ESDP, encompassing both civilian and military dimensions, taking into account ESDC and national activities as well as Community instruments; to take work forward in the ESDC Steering Committee with a view to a revision of the Council Joint Action establishing the ESDC.
- ▶ To take forward work on the ESDP contribution to Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR).
- ▶ To enhance the EU-NATO strategic partnership in crisis management; to ensure mutually reinforcing development of military capabilities where requirements overlap; and to ensure practical, effective coordination when the two organizations are engaged in the same theatre, in particular Kosovo and Afghanistan.

- ▶ To further intensify consultations and cooperation with the United Nations in crisis management in line with the Joint Statement on EU-UN Cooperation in crisis management signed on 7th June, 2007.
- ▶ To foster the dialogue, consultations and co-operation with the African Union and Sub-regional Organisations. To continue implementing coherent and coordinated support for African partners through the Council-agreed recommendations and action plan aimed at strengthening the partnership between Africa and the EU in the field of African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts, as well as in the context of the forthcoming EU-Africa Summit, where a Joint EU-Africa Strategy should be adopted.
- ▶ To continue close dialogue and co-operation in crisis management with other key partners, in particular the OSCE, European non-EU NATO members and State candidates for accession, the USA, Canada, Russia, Ukraine and Switzerland.
- ▶ To develop and deepen the dialogue with the Mediterranean countries in order to enhance cooperation on ESDP and security issues.
- ▶ To continue the EU engagement in the Western Balkans through ongoing and future activities.
- ▶ To continue promoting the effective implementation of relevant human rights related provisions in the context of ESDP crisis management activities, including the provisions of UNSCR 1612.
- ▶ To continue promoting gender mainstreaming in the context of ESDP crisis management activities, including the implementation of relevant provisions of UNSCR 1325.
- ▶ To enhance dialogue and information exchange with NGOs and civil society.

EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 28 June 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION ON SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANISATION (CTBTO) IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ITS MONITORING AND VERIFICATION CAPABILITIES AND IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU STRATEGY AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

- (1) On 12 December 2003, the European Council adopted the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Chapter III of which contains a list of measures to combat such proliferation which need to be taken both within the EU and in third countries.
- (2) The European Union is actively implementing the EU Strategy and is giving effect to the measures listed in Chapter III thereof, in particular by releasing financial resources to support specific projects conducted by multilateral institutions.
- (3) The States Signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear- Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 September 1996, have decided to establish a Preparatory Commission, endowed with legal capacity, for the purpose of carrying out the effective implementation of the CTBT, pending the establishment of the CTBT Organisation (CTBTO).
- (4) On 17 November 2003, the Council adopted Common Position 2003/805/CFSP⁽¹⁾ on the universalisation and reinforcement of multilateral agreements in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery.
- (5) The early entry into force and universalisation of the CTBT and the strengthening of the monitoring and verification system of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO are important objectives of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- (6) The Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO pursues the same objectives as those referred to in recitals 4 and 5 and is already engaged in identifying by what means its verification system could best be strengthened through the timely provision of expertise and training to personnel from the States Signatories involved in the implementation of the verification regime. It is therefore appropriate to entrust the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO with the technical implementation of this Joint Action.
- (7) On 20 March 2006, the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/243/CFSP⁽²⁾ on support for activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

(1) OJ L 302, 20.11.2003, p. 34. (2) OJ L 88, 25.3.2006, p. 68.

(2) OJ L 88, 25.3.2006, p. 68.

Organisation (CTBTO) in the area of training and capacity building for verification and in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

(8) The nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in October 2006 further underlined the importance of the early entry into force of the CTBT and the need for an accelerated building-up of the CTBTO monitoring and verification system,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

1. For the purposes of immediate and practical implementation of certain elements of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the European Union shall support the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in order to further the following objectives:

- (a) strengthening the capabilities of the CTBTO monitoring and verification system, including in the field of radio-nuclide detection;
- (b) enhancing the operational performance of the CTBTO monitoring and verification system, including through testing and validation of on-site inspection modalities.

2. The projects to be supported by the European Union shall have the following specific objectives:

- (a) to provide support for the development of capacity in the area of noble gas monitoring and verification;
- (b) to provide support for the preparation, conduct and evaluation of the Integrated Field Exercise 2008 in the area of on-site inspections (IFE08/OSI). The projects shall be carried out for the benefit of all States Signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. A detailed description of the projects is set out in the Annex.

Article 2

1. The Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General of the Council/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (SG/HR), shall be responsible for the implementation of this Joint Action. The Commission shall be fully associated.

2. The projects referred to in Article 1(2) shall be carried out by the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO. It shall perform this task under the control of the SG/HR, assisting the Presidency. For this purpose, the SG/HR shall enter into the necessary arrangements with the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO.

3. The Presidency, the SG/HR and the Commission shall keep each other regularly informed about the projects, in conformity with their respective competences.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the projects referred to in Article 1(2) shall be EUR 1 670 000.

2. The expenditure financed by the amount stipulated in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the European Community procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the European Communities with the exception that any pre-financing shall not remain the property of the Community.

3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 2. For this purpose, it shall conclude a financing agreement with the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, which shall take the form of a grant. The financing agreement shall stipulate that the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO is to ensure visibility of the EU contribution, appropriate to its size.

4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the financing agreement referred to in paragraph 3 as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Joint Action. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of the financing agreement.

Article 4

The Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Joint Action on the basis of regular reports prepared by the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO. These reports shall form the basis for the evaluation by the Council. The Commission shall be fully associated. It shall provide information on the financial aspects of the implementation of this Joint Action.

Article 5

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

It shall expire:

- (a) 15 months after the conclusion of the financing agreement between the Commission and the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, or
- (b) 12 months after the date of its adoption if no financing agreement has been concluded within that period.

Article 6

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

Done at Luxembourg, 28 June 2007.

For the Council

The President

S. Gabriel

ANNEX

EU support for activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in order to strengthen its monitoring and verification capabilities and in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

I. Introduction

The announced nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in October 2006 not only highlighted the importance of early entry into force of the Treaty, but also underscored the need for the rapid build-up of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) verification regime. The event constituted a real life system-wide test for the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) and highlighted the potential value that the global verification system can bring to States Signatories. It demonstrated the technical relevance of the CTBT verification arrangements, including the importance of validated and efficient on-site inspections (OSI). For this project proposal, the PTS has identified elements with regard to the monitoring and verification capabilities that merit particular focus in the light of the experiences gained from the DPRK event. The proposal is built on the following two components:

- (a) noble gases;
- (b) the Integrated Field Exercise 2008 (IFE08/OSI).

II. Description of projects

1. Project Component Noble Gas; improve the knowledge of PTS noble gas measurements:

- (a) the International Monitoring System (IMS) has currently reached a level of approximately two-thirds of stations in operation. The build-up of the system is pursued as a matter of priority with the aim to reach a level of up to 90 % in early 2008. The DPRK event was well recorded by the PTS primary and auxiliary seismic stations, providing reliable measurements to States Signatories of the time, location and magnitude of the event. The system of seismic stations has reached a level of approximately 80 % build up to date;
- (b) the level of operation of stations capable of monitoring the presence in the atmosphere of relevant noble gases upon the entry into force of the Treaty, however, needs to be advanced. Currently, 10 prototype stations are operational or in construction, equivalent to 25 % of the projected number at entry into force. These stations are providing experimental and provisional measurements in the framework of the PTS's International Noble Gas Experiment (INGE). It is recalled that this research and development program is based on four technologies proposed by the four following countries: France, Russia, Sweden and the United States. In the wake of the DPRK event, many States Signatories, including Member States of the European Union, have expressed their opinion that the PTS capabilities of monitoring the presence of noble gas need to be strengthened;
- (c) noble gas monitoring is a fundamental and highly sensitive technique for the detection of underground and underwater nuclear explosions. Of all verification technologies, it is, together with radionuclide particulate monitoring, the only technique that has the potential to provide unmistakable proof of a nuclear explosion;

- (d) in order to ensure the quality and accuracy of the current and future PTS's noble gas measurement capabilities, it is of eminent importance to know the 'noble gas background' that can be expected in other regions of the world, where no stations currently exist. A methodology for categorization of events detected by noble gas system measurements therefore needs to be developed. Noble gas field measurements are the best way to achieve this and to provide answers to such 'unknowns'. Currently, INGE stations are collecting data in the North- and South Americas, Europe, Asia and Oceania. However, in South Asia, the Persian Gulf and Southern Africa, there are nuclear facilities but no radio xenon background data are available. Moreover, in Europe measurements at specific sites, e.g. near radiopharmaceutical plants or nuclear power plants, are also needed;
- (e) to this end, measurements near nuclear power plants (NPPs) or radiopharmaceutical production plants should be undertaken to show the difference between theoretical release models, reported average releases, and experimental, real measured results. Further, the background of noble gases in other regions of the world, where no stations currently exist, needs to be studied;
- (f) to achieve the abovementioned necessary improvements of the capabilities in the area of noble gas, the PTS seeks support for the following project:
- (i) conduct of up to four field measurement campaigns with a duration of approximately four months each. During each campaign, the Xenon background is recorded at several sites at a distance of 500 to 2 500 kilometres from the base camp for a period of approximately three weeks. In addition, a detector background measurement should be performed at each measurement location. Some of the measurements could then also be used as site background for the future to install IMS stations. All these activities would be conducted in close relationship with relevant weather forecast organisations;
 - (ii) the measurements will be performed with European-made transportable noble gas measurement equipment (Swedish SAUNA and/or French SPALAX systems respectively), which will be lent to the PTS at no cost for the period covered by this Joint Action;
 - (iii) the French system SPALAX is a very mature system operating at many sites (including IMS sites) for several years. It will also be available in a transportable version providing data with the same high sensitivity. During each campaign the whole system can be either transported to different sites or split up in a transportable sampling unit and a detector unit at the 'base-camp', depending on the logistical conditions of the region;
 - (iv) the Swedish SAUNA system has already been used in several field campaigns, and is thus well evaluated. The system delivers data with detection limits similar to the IMS version (SAUNA II) for the four relevant isotopes, and the data will thus be directly applicable to the IMS measurement scenario. During each of the campaigns, the base camp unit is installed at one location and mobile sampling measurements are performed at two or three sites nearby;
 - (v) each measurement campaign would require:
 - preparations and careful logistics (service of equipment, logistical planning, agreements with local institutes, transport, etc.),
 - installation, calibrations and data collection,
 - equipment calibration, packing, transport home,
 - data analysis;

- (vi) the anticipated cost elements for this project include:
 - ▮ staff (including a temporary assistant for logistics) and travel costs,
 - ▮ equipment (e.g. manufacturing of sampling columns or equivalent, uninterruptible power supply, etc.),
 - ▮ consumables (e.g. power and helium),
 - ▮ service and spare parts,
 - ▮ shipment and transport of equipment,
 - ▮ local transport and logistics,
 - ▮ evaluation workshop;
- (g) measurements are planned to be performed in the following regions: Europe (1), the Persian Gulf (2), Southern Africa (3) and South Asia (4). The measurements in region (3) and partly in region (1) are expected to be performed with CEA (France) equipment, while the measurements in region (2) and (4) as well as partly in (1) are expected to be performed with FOI (Sweden) equipment;
- (h) the equipment for this project will be provided free of charge by CEA (France) and FOI (Sweden) who will also be contracted by the PTS for its deployment and operation;
- (i) the expected duration of this project component would be approximately one to one and a half years;
- (j) preliminary cost estimated: EUR 960 507.

2. Project Component On-Site Inspection; Support for the Preparations for the Integrated Field Exercise 2008

- (a) the event in the DPRK has again highlighted the importance of on-site inspections as a key pillar of the CTBT verification regime. While the data provided by the International Monitoring System and the International Data Centre about the event in the DPRK in the framework of provisional operating and testing of the system was extremely valuable and reliable, definite clarity about the nature of the event could only be obtained through an on-site inspection in the determined location. It is a key responsibility of the Preparatory Commission to achieve the highest level of operational readiness of the on-site inspection regime in time for entry into force of the Treaty;
- (b) policy making organs of the Preparatory Commission, in particular Working Group B, have underscored repeatedly that the most efficient way of achieving the required level of readiness is through the conduct of OSI field exercises. The first such large-scale exercise, the Integrated Field Exercise 2008 (IFE08), will take place in September 2008 in Kazakhstan. This will be the first attempt to simulate a real on site inspection by integrating three main pillars of the OSI regime, namely:
 - (i) trained inspectors (approximately 50);
 - (ii) OSI-equipment; and
 - (iii) testing the OSI operational manual.
- (c) the comprehensive preparations and successful conduct of IFE08 are a prerequisite for the completion of the OSI regime in the near future. The evaluation of the results and the lessons learned from IFE08 will provide the PTS with essential knowledge as to which steps still need to be taken to achieve operational readiness of the OSI regime. The availability of appropriate resources for IFE08, financial and human, as well as in-kind contributions by

States Signatories of equipment, training and logistical support is essential for the success of IFE08;

(d) in the current stage of preparations for IFE08, the PTS has identified the following areas in which support from States Signatories would be particularly important:

(i) Transportation

IFE08 requires the transportation of 20-30 tons of equipment from Vienna to the point of entry in Kazakhstan. In addition, 80 persons (40 inspectors and 40 other persons, including direction of exercise, control team, observers and evaluators) would have to travel to the location. The likely budget for IFE08 to be approved by States Signatories foresees savings through ground transportation of the equipment. In the PTS's assessment, however, this has serious disadvantages, in particular regarding the duration and reliability of transportation and the safety and security of OSI equipment. This assessment was endorsed by the OSI Expert Advisory Group, which is assisting the PTS in the preparation of IFE08, in its meeting on 5 and 6 December 2006. The PTS therefore seeks support for air transportation of equipment and personnel to and from Kazakhstan. In the light of logistical and operational requirements of IFE08 as well as the legal arrangements with the host country, air transportation may have to be arranged through non-EU based companies;

(ii) Establishment of operational base-camps

In the course of IFE08, the PTS will have to deploy two bases of operations at the surrogate inspection area on the territory of the former Soviet nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk. While the first base will be for the inspection team, the second base is required for the evaluators and observers of IFE08. These bases, equipped with the necessary infrastructure such as offices, communication facilities etc., would serve as headquarters of the IFE08 and serve an essential function for the conduct and control of the operation at the inspection area. The PTS is able to identify resources for procuring the first base camp for the inspection team. However, the regular budget will not allow the procurement of a second set. Therefore, the procurement and deployment of the second base would require resources, which cannot be covered by the IFE08 budget. Using remote infrastructure will result in much time being lost in transportation, with additional related cost and limitations on the number of hours that may be usefully spent for exercise purpose;

(iii) IFE08 evaluation workshop

Purpose: To enhance the evaluation and outcome of the IFE08 in December 2008. This would provide an opportunity for experts to review and discuss the immediate results of the exercise with a view to assisting the PTS in drafting a preliminary report for the first meeting of Working Group B in 2009 and to identify priorities for further PTS efforts. In addition, valuable lessons are expected to be drawn by experts from the raw material during the workshop, and preliminary guidance for the next cycle of field exercises is expected to be identified. The workshop would address the following items:

- ▶ logistics including the set up and running of a base of operation,
- ▶ team management,
- ▶ issues regarding relations with the Inspected State Party (ISP) including in particular confidentiality and managed access,
- ▶ visual observation including during overflights,
- ▶ seismic issues,

- ▶ geophysical techniques,
- ▶ health and safety,
- ▶ communication,
- ▶ navigation.

In addition, in cooperation with the Office of the Executive Secretary/Evaluation, the evaluation of the exercise itself should be discussed;

(e) The estimated costs for the two components in support of IFE08 are:

EUR 250 000	(air transportation on a commercial basis. In kind support e.g. chartered cargo airplane may be an option)
EUR 269 249	(purchase, setting up and activation of the second operational base camp)
EUR 152 965	IFE08 evaluation workshop
EUR 672 214	(total)

III. Duration

The total estimated duration of the implementation of the projects is 15 months.

IV. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the projects in this Joint Action, which are aimed at strengthening the monitoring and verification capabilities of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, are all States Signatories to the CTBT.

V. Implementing entity

The CTBTO Preparatory Commission will be entrusted with the implementation of the projects. The projects will be implemented directly by staff of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, experts from the States Signatories to the CTBT and contractors. In the case of contractors, the procurement of any goods, works or services by the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO in the context of this Joint Action will be carried out as detailed in the financing agreement to be concluded by the European Commission with the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO.

The implementing entity will prepare:

- (a) A mid-term report after the first six months of the implementation of the projects;
- (b) A final report not later than one month after the end of the implementation of the projects.

Reports will be sent to the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR for the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

VI. Third party participants

The projects will be financed in their entirety by this Joint Action. Experts from the CTBTO Preparatory Commission and from the States Signatories to the CTBT may be considered as third party participants. They will work under the standard rules of operation for CTBTO Preparatory Commission experts.

VII. Estimated required total financial means

The EU contribution will cover full implementation of the project described in this Annex. The estimated costs are as follows:

Project Component Noble Gas:	EUR 960 507
Project Component On-Site Inspection:	EUR 672 214
Total:	EUR 1 632 721

In addition, a contingency reserve of about 3 % of eligible costs (for a total amount of EUR 37 279) is included for unforeseen costs.

VIII. Financial reference amount to cover the cost of the projects

The total cost of the project is EUR 1 670 000.

EU-Brazil Summit

Lisbon, 4 July 2007

JOINT STATEMENT

1. Mr. José Sócrates, Prime Minister of Portugal, in his capacity as President of the European Council, assisted by the Secretary General/High Representative of the Council of the European Union Mr. Javier Solana, and Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission, and, Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil held a meeting today in Lisbon. Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations, Mr. Peter Mandelson, Commissioner for External Trade, Ambassador Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations of Brazil and Mr. Luís Amado, Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, also attended the meeting.
2. The EU and Brazil exchanged views on a number of bilateral, regional and global issues. They agreed to enhance their longstanding bilateral relationship and in particular to reinforce the political dialogue at the highest political level.

Launching a strategic partnership

Strengthening political dialogue

3. On the historic occasion of their first summit, the EU and Brazil decided to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership, based on their close historical, cultural and economic ties. Both sides share fundamental values and principles such as democracy, rule of law, promotion of human rights and basic freedoms and a market-based economy. Both sides agree on the need to identify and promote common strategies to tackle global challenges, including in peace and security issues, democracy and human rights, climate change, biodiversity, energy security and sustainable development, fight against poverty and exclusion. They also agree on the importance of complying with obligations under existing international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. The EU and Brazil concur that the best way to deal with global issues is through effective multilateralism, placing the UN system at its centre. Both sides welcome the establishment of an EU-Brazil political dialogue, initiated under the German Presidency of the EU.
4. The EU and Brazil attach high importance to strengthening EU – Mercosur relations and are committed to concluding the EU – Mercosur Association Agreement, which will further deepen region-to-region economic relations as well as enhance the political dialogue and cooperation initiatives. They stress the great economic and political importance that this agreement will have for both regions and its role in reinforcing their integration processes.
5. The EU and Brazil stress their commitment to strengthen the bi-regional EU-LAC process.

Strengthening sector policy dialogues

6. The EU and Brazil commend the progress in existing sector policy dialogues on maritime transport, science and technology and information society. Both sides agree to enhance their dialogue on environment and sustainable development. They welcome the launching of new

dialogues on energy, employment and social issues, regional development, culture and education, as well as a consultation mechanism on sanitary and phytosanitary issues. They fully support the dialogues in addressing topics of mutual interest so as to enhance the existing co-operation. Concerning in particular the sector dialogue on science and technology, the EU and Brazil stress the fact that the recent entry into force of the EU-Brazil Science and Technology Co-operation Agreement provides a sound basis for deepening the existing co-operation.

Addressing Global Challenges

7. The EU and Brazil underline the importance of implementing the on-going reform process adopted at the UN Summit in 2005, including the reform of the main UN bodies, as referred to in the outcome document, in order to address various challenges that the international community faces.

8. The EU and Brazil agree to work together to face the more pressing global peace and security challenges, such as the issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular regarding nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, transnational organised crime such as illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, trafficking of small arms, light weapons and ammunition, trafficking in persons, as well as terrorism and irregular migration. Both sides express their commitment to the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. The EU and Brazil recognise that one of the greatest challenges of our century is the eradication of poverty. They re-affirm their commitment to continue working together closely in promoting and implementing the Millennium Development Goals, they welcome the initiatives taken by Brazil and some Member States to implement innovative sources of financing and they underline their interest in intensifying co-operation in the field of development assistance. They stress the importance of building a global partnership for development and implementing the plan of action of the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development. They will also engage in fighting poverty and advancing the discussions on social cohesion in the EU-LAC framework.

10. Reiterating their commitment to strengthening the multilateral climate change regime, the EU and Brazil strive for an ambitious agreement on the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol as well as further action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including incentives for developing countries to take measurable, reportable and verifiable measures of different kinds. Both sides agree that significant progress can be achieved guided by the ultimate objective of the Convention and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and reiterate their commitment to a successful outcome of the Bali Conference in December 2007. They take note of the provisions regarding cooperation in the fields of climate change and energy in the Joint Statement by the German G8 Presidency and the Heads of State and/or Government of the G5 in Heiligendamm on 8 June 2007. They will cooperate more closely on the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, and notably on the next Conference of the Parties to the

Convention on Biological Diversity and on the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Bonn in May 2008 to advance the implementation of the Convention as well as of the Protocol. They will strengthen cooperation on issues such as water resources management and forests.

11. They decide to cooperate to ensure the sustainable production, use and development of all forms of energy, including biofuels, as well as to promote renewable energy sources and low carbon energy technologies. They intend to work towards increasing energy efficiency and the share of renewable energies in the global mix. They decide to act together and with other nations to create a global market for biofuels and consider the work of the International Biofuels Forum instrumental to achieve this goal. They look forward to a productive International Conference on Biofuels in Brussels on 5-6 July 2007. They welcome the initiative to organise an International Biofuels Conference in Brazil, in the second half of 2008.

Expanding and deepening trade and economic relations

12. The EU and Brazil share the belief that further liberalisation of trade and facilitation of investment flows will promote economic growth and prosperity for their people. They reaffirm their strong commitment to conclude promptly the WTO Doha Development Round. They also affirm their commitment to reach an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement that fulfils the development objectives of the Round and significantly fosters trade flows in agriculture, industrial goods and services among and between developed and developing countries, as well as promotes effective trade rules.

13. The EU and Brazil are strongly committed to concluding the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, which will further deepen region-to-region trade and investment flows. They believe regional trade agreements are important complements to the Multilateral Trade System.

14. In order to further reinforce their economic ties, the EU and Brazil plan to establish a dialogue on macro-economic and on financial issues, and they encourage the European Investment Bank to carry on its support to Brazil's sustainable development projects. In this context, the EU and Brazil welcome the cooperation between the European Investment Bank and the Brazilian National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES).

15. They welcome the first EU-Brazil Business Round Table, held in Lisbon on 4 July 2007, with participation of Brazilian and European companies.

Bringing our people together

16. The EU and Brazil emphasise the significance of further strengthening awareness and understanding of their societies and to stimulate civil society contacts and exchanges between their people. They encourage in particular cooperation between the European Economic and Social Committee and the Brazilian Council for Economic and Social Development. They affirm their willingness to cooperate within the framework of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. They agree to expand further EU-Brazil cooperation in higher education by intensifying university exchanges under Erasmus Mundus and other bi-national and bi-regional schemes, such as the ALCUE Common Area in Higher Education. Both sides stress that quality education for all is an important task for social inclusion.

The way ahead

17. The EU and Brazil agree that their strategic partnership involves commitments to deepen mutual understanding, to expand common ground and to enhance cooperation and dialogue in areas of mutual interest. They agree to swiftly make their strategic partnership operational, result-oriented and forward-looking. The EU and Brazil will jointly work in designing an Action Plan to implement those objectives in view of the next Summit.

European Union counter-terrorism strategy – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 16 July 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/501/CFSP ON COOPERATION WITH THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH ON TERRORISM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Whereas:

- (1) On 15 December 2005 the European Council adopted the European Union counter-terrorism strategy, which provided in particular for the development of cooperation with the European Union's external partners in preventing and combating terrorism.
- (2) On 15 December 2005 the European Union adopted the strategy 'The European Union and Africa: towards a strategic partnership', in which the European Union undertook to support the efforts of the African states in the fight against terrorism.
- (3) On 14 September 2002 the African Union approved a Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, which provided in particular for the creation of the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT).
- (4) The ACSRT was created on 13 October 2004 by the African Union. It is responsible for evaluating the terrorist threat in Africa and for promoting intra- African cooperation against terrorism. It wishes to receive support from Europe.
- (5) The terrorist threat is developing in certain African countries and represents a growing danger not only for them, but also for the European Union.
- (6) The efficiency of the fight against terrorism in Africa is undermined by certain local weaknesses, particularly in the area of institutional organisation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Objective

The objective of this Joint Action is to provide the Member States of the African Union with support from the European Union in improving the organisation of their capacities in the fight against terrorism in the framework of the provisions of the European Union counter-terrorism strategy on the promotion of a partnership in this area outside the European Union, in particular with international organisations. By means of this Joint Action, the European Union is also seeking to strengthen cooperation between the African Union countries in the field of counter-terrorism, in particular through the exchange of information.

Article 2

Description of the project

For the purposes of this Joint Action, the European Union shall provide the ACSRT with financial support for the implementation of the project described below, which aims to improve the efficiency of the counter-terrorism arrangements of the African countries.

The project shall consist in carrying out audit missions on national counter-terrorism arrangements and providing advice on reorganisation in the Member States of the African Union. These missions shall be based on an action plan, drawn up in collaboration with the ACSRT, which the European Union shall present at a seminar held beforehand in Addis Ababa with all member countries of the African Union.

A detailed description of the project is set out in the Annex.

Article 3

Implementation

1. The Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General of the Council/High Representative for the CFSP (SG/HR), shall be responsible for the implementation of this Joint Action. The Commission shall be fully associated.
2. The technical implementation of the project referred to in Article 2 shall be entrusted to the ACSRT, which shall perform this task under the control of the SG/HR. For this purpose, the SG/HR shall enter into the necessary arrangements with the ACSRT.

Article 4

Financial provisions

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the project referred to in Article 2 is EUR 665 000, funded from the general budget of the European Communities for 2007.
2. The expenditure shall be managed under the responsibility of the Commission in accordance with the rules and procedures of the European Community applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 2, which will take the form of a grant. For this purpose, the Commission shall conclude a financing agreement with the ACSRT. The financing agreement provides that the ACSRT shall ensure that the European Union's contribution is fully visible, appropriate to its size.
4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the financing agreement referred to in paragraph 3 as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Joint Action. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of the financing agreement.

Article 5

Reporting and evaluation

The Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Joint Action on the basis of regular reports to be provided by the ACSRT. The reports drawn up for the Council shall include an evaluation of the project referred to in Article 2. The Commission shall be fully associated and shall provide information on the financial aspects of the implementation of this Joint Action.

Article 6

Consistency and cooperation

The Council and the Commission shall, each within their respective powers, ensure consistency between the implementation of this Joint Action and other external activities of the Community in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 3 of the Treaty on the European Union. The Council and the Commission shall cooperate to this end.

Article 7

Entry into force and duration

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption. It shall expire 18 months after the financing agreement between the Commission and the ACSRT, referred to in Article 4(3), has been concluded, or on 16 July 2008 if the financing agreement has not been concluded before that date.

Article 8

Publication

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

Done at Brussels, 16 July 2007.

For the Council

The President

J. Silva

ANNEX – EUROPEAN UNION ACTION TO SUPPORT THE AFRICAN UNION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

Description of the action

The Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, signed in Algiers on 14 July 1999 by the member countries of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), is the first instrument specifically designed to combat terrorism across the entire African continent.

This convention contains a definition of terrorism⁽¹⁾, the obligation to classify terrorist acts as crimes under national law, the undertaking not to support terrorist activities, the obligation for states to cooperate in combating terrorism by exchanging information, and provisions on the extradition of terrorists and on facilitating criminal investigations by foreign authorities on national territory.

On this basis, the African Union (AU), which replaced the OAU in 2001, approved the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa on 14 September 2002 in Algiers. The plan aims to implement the OAU Convention by means of specific measures.

In particular, Section H of the Plan of Action provides for the creation of the African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), with responsibility for carrying out training measures, conducting studies on terrorism, setting up a database system for gathering, exchanging and analysing intelligence, as well as for terrorism-related surveillance and alerts. The Centre has a correspondent, called the 'focal point', in each country.

Content of the project

The EU's support for the AU in the fight against terrorism forms part of a phased approach which makes it possible to identify cooperation needs and the added value of a measure.

A joint seminar will be organised by the ACSRT in the second half of 2007 in Addis Ababa in which the EU will offer to evaluate the national counter-terrorism arrangements of the African countries and to provide advice on reorganisation. An action plan will be presented during this seminar. At the end, those countries wishing to participate in the implementation of the plan and to host an audit mission on their territory can express their desire to do so. This plan involves carrying out audit missions to improve the organisation of counter-terrorism in Africa.

In a second phase, missions to evaluate the AU countries' local counter-terrorism capacities will be carried out in those countries which request them at the end of the seminar. The audit teams will evaluate the countries' counter-terrorism capacities in situ in order to suggest improvements in a report drawn up by the Head of Mission and then forwarded to the ACSRT, which will be responsible for sending it to the Council for communication to the Member States.

(1) Article 1(3) of this Convention defines a 'terrorist act' as 'any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of a State Party and which may endanger the life, physical integrity or freedom of, or cause serious injury or death to, any person, any number or group of persons or causes or may cause damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage and is calculated or intended to:

i) intimidate, put in fear, force, coerce or induce any government, body, institution, the general public or any segment thereof, to do or abstain from doing any act, or to adopt or abandon a particular standpoint, or to act according to certain principles; or
 ii) disrupt any public service, the delivery of any essential service to the public or to create a public emergency; or
 iii) create general insurrection in a State.'

The definition in this Article also covers the financing of terrorism, insofar as it includes 'any promotion, sponsoring, contribution to, command, aid, incitement, encouragement, attempt, threat, conspiracy, organizing, or procurement of any person, with the intent to commit any act referred to in [the preceding] paragraph.'

In a third phase and on the basis of these evaluations, the ACSRT (with the agreement of the EU) will make recommendations to the audited countries, which will be responsible for implementing their conclusions.

Arrangements for implementing the joint action

In receiving CFSP funds, the ACSRT is given a central role in the implementation of the Joint Action. The ACSRT will take charge of the organisation of the Addis Ababa seminar. In order to prepare the audit missions, it will be in permanent contact with the States which have accepted the action plan; it will also manage the missions in operational and financial terms and play a coordinating role. The Member States will be briefed regularly on the progress of this Joint Action which will take place over a period of 18 months.

A seminar bringing together two representatives from the 53 countries of the AU, Morocco, the UNODC, the ACSRT and each EU Member State, as well as the EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator, will be held in Addis Ababa, seat of the AU, in the second half of 2007. The representatives will be high-level experts and senior officials.

Opened by a representative of the AU, it will include contributions by:

- ▶ the ACSRT on evaluating the terrorist threat,
- ▶ the UNODC on international agreements,
- ▶ the coordinator of European counter-terrorism policy,
- ▶ European representatives from the national counter-terrorism coordination units,
- ▶ AU representatives.

The seminar will close with the presentation of an action plan drawn up in advance by the EU proposing missions, for those countries wishing to have them, to audit national counter-terrorism arrangements and give advice on reorganisation.

The provisional budget for the seminar will cover the travel and subsistence expenses of the representatives of the 53 countries of the AU and of Morocco, the representatives from Europe and from the international organisations, as well as a preparatory mission and a mission to put the logistics of the seminar in place. The working languages of the seminar will be those of the AU: English, French, Arabic and Portuguese.

At the close of the seminar, the African states will state whether they wish to receive an audit mission or not. The audit teams will be made up of two specialists from the EU Member States and one member of the ACSRT. They must have free access to all relevant information and their aim will be to evaluate the counter-terrorism arrangements in each State. At the end of their mission, they will draft reports containing recommendations, which, if accepted by the authorities of the audited countries, will be implemented by these authorities with monitoring by the ACSRT.

Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement

Lisbon, 19 July 2007

The Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – met today in Portugal to discuss the situation in the Middle East. They were joined by Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

The Quartet reaffirmed its commitment to bring about an end to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and to work to lay the foundation for the establishment of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side with Israel in peace and security, as a step towards a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East, consistent with the Roadmap and UN Security Council resolutions.

The Quartet welcomed President Bush's July 16 statement renewing U.S. commitment to a negotiated two-state solution, and supported President Bush's call for an international meeting in the fall. The Quartet looks forward to consultations as the meeting is prepared. The Quartet agreed that such a meeting should provide diplomatic support for the parties in their bilateral discussions and negotiations in order to move forward on a successful path to a Palestinian state.

The Quartet welcomed the agreement by Tony Blair to be the Quartet Representative and discussed with him the urgent work that lies ahead. Noting the centrality of reform, economic development, and institutional capacity building to the establishment of a stable and prosperous Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that will unite all Palestinians, and live in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbors, the Quartet urged the parties and all states in the region to work closely with Mr. Blair, and encouraged robust international support for his efforts, including the convening of an Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting in the fall.

The Quartet expressed support for the Palestinian Authority government headed by Salam Fayyad, which is committed to the political platform of President Abbas, that reflects the January 30, 2006 Quartet principles. The Quartet encouraged direct and rapid financial assistance and other aid to the Palestinian Authority government to help reform, preserve, and strengthen vital Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, and to support the rule of law.

The Quartet welcomed the resumption of bilateral talks between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas, and expressed support for steps taken by the Israeli Government, including the resumption of tax and customs revenue transfers and the decision to release Palestinian prisoners. The Quartet encouraged continued bilateral dialogue and further cooperation, including on the political horizon as the necessary framework to move forward. It urged both parties to work without delay to fulfill their previous commitments and to build confidence.

Recognizing the continuing importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet looked forward to the planned visit to Israel by representatives of the Arab League to discuss the Initiative. The Quartet expressed support for continued and expanded dialogue between Israel and the Arab states. It looked forward to an early meeting with the Arab states to follow up on their May meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The Quartet emphasized the need to find ways to sustain Palestinian economic activity and

the importance of creating circumstances that would allow for full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access, particularly in view of the impact of crossings on the Palestinian economy and daily life. The Quartet encouraged both parties to address their Roadmap obligations, including an end to settlement expansion and the removal of unauthorized outposts, and an end to violence and terror. The Quartet expressed its deep concern over the humanitarian conditions in Gaza and agreed on the importance of continued emergency and humanitarian assistance.

The Quartet agreed to continue to consult regularly on developments, and to meet again in September to take stock of developments, hear from Mr. Blair on his strategy for the economic and institutional agenda, and discuss the way ahead.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Brussels, 23-24 July 2007

(...)

Kosovo – EU planning team

The Council adopted a joint action amending and extending until 30 November 2007 the mandate of the planning team (EUPT Kosovo) for a possible EU mission in Kosovo in the framework of the European security and defence policy to deal with the rule of law and other areas (11411/07).

Joint action 2006/304/CFSP is thus amended in order to take into account the need to recruit and to train core personnel for the possible operation before the adoption of a new United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) to replace UNSCR 1244.

In parallel, the EU is also preparing for a possible international civilian office in Kosovo, including an EU special representative component.

(...)

Restrictions on the use of conventional weapons

The Council adopted a joint action in support of the United Nations convention on prohibitions and other restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons (CCW) (10163/07).

The CCW regulates the use in armed conflicts of certain conventional arms deemed to cause excessive suffering to combatants or indiscriminate harm to civilian populations.

Within the framework of the European security strategy, the joint action is aimed at promoting the universality of the CCW and supporting its implementation by means of:

- the organisation of regional seminars aimed at increasing the membership of the CCW;
- a financial contribution to the CCW sponsorship programme, which was adopted by the parties to the CCW to allow enhanced participation at meetings and a better understanding of the convention.

(...)

SUDAN/DARFUR – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council welcomes the renewed momentum of the efforts to resolve the Darfur conflict through a negotiated political settlement and the deployment of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation. It is essential that the joint AU/UN initiative to revitalise the political track and the strengthening of peacekeeping in Darfur be backed up by strong and coherent international support. In this regard, the Council welcomes the outcome of the meeting in Tripoli on 15-16 July, which brought together the international community’s efforts in support of the AU-UN led political process, in partnership with the regional actors, towards peace in Darfur. It urges the non-signatory movements to participate constructively in the negotiations to take place in Arusha on 3-5 August and calls on all parties to prepare for early negotiations in the context

of an inclusive process. Similarly, the Council also welcomes the French initiative of convening a meeting of the enlarged Contact Group on 25 June as an important contribution to galvanise the international community's support for a solution of the conflict, and looks forward to the forthcoming meeting of the Group in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September.

2. The EU renews its strong support for the AU/UN mediation under the leadership of the UN and AU Special Envoys, and states its readiness to examine ways and means to strengthen its engagement in support of the AU/UN and the political process. The Council underlines the critical importance of accomplishing without further delay the steps included in the Joint AU-UN Road Map for the Darfur Political Process within the timelines set out therein. It urges all parties to the conflict to seize the current momentum and engage constructively in the efforts to find a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the conflict. The Council also encourages the UN to promptly appoint a new Special Representative for Sudan.

3. The EU calls on all sides to demonstrate serious commitment to finding a solution to put an end to the suffering of the people of Darfur. In line with Security Council Resolution 1591, the Council will consider any party failing to constructively engage in the peace process as an obstacle to peace and will promote appropriate further measures against them, notably in the UN framework. The EU also urges the regional actors to work for the convergence of all mediation initiatives and their integration within the broader AU/UN framework.

4. Sustainable peace in Darfur is only possible within the framework of a peaceful and united Sudan and requires the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Reaffirming its commitment to reinforce its support for this process, the EU urges the parties to the agreement to step up efforts to accelerate implementation of the CPA and set specific timelines for the achievement of critical milestones, notably the delineation of the North-South border and the status of Abeyei. In this regard, the EU recalls the particular importance of the preparations for the national elections scheduled for 2009.

5. There can be no impunity for the violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law committed in Darfur. The EU notes the report on the situation of human rights in Darfur prepared by the group of experts mandated by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in March, which confirms the deep concerns about the seriousness of the violations taking place in Darfur and the lack of accountability of their perpetrators. The Council fully supports the implementation without delay of the recommendations of the report and welcomes the decision by consensus of the UNHRC on 20 June to request the Experts Group to continue its work for six months, and to submit an update of its report in September 2007. While acknowledging the commitment of the Sudanese authorities to collaborate in this regard, the Council reiterates its call to the Government of Sudan, and other relevant parties, to continue to cooperate fully with the Group.

6. The EU welcomes progress in the implementation of the Joint Communiqué on Facilitation of Humanitarian Activities in Darfur, signed by the Sudanese government and the UN on 28 March 2007. As a member of the High Level Committee, the EU will closely monitor the implementation of the Communiqué, and will support all efforts to ensure unhindered and safe access for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the protection of refugee camps, IDPs and other civilian populations, as well as of humanitarian aid workers. It calls upon the Sudanese government to remove all remaining administrative restrictions on humanitarian activities, recalling its responsibility to fulfil its obligations under humanitarian law to protect and assist

its own citizens. It stands ready to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, to ensure humanitarian deliveries and protection of civilians.

7. The EU equally stands ready to play its full role in providing assistance for the reconstruction and development of Darfur once a peace agreement is effective, promoting a progressive transition from humanitarian aid to development cooperation. Aid for reconstruction and development should be targeted at supporting sustainable peace and reconciliation of the people of Darfur, reaching out to all segments of Darfurian society. In this regard, the EU will also actively support the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation as an inclusive process with representatives of all stakeholders, aimed at overcoming divisions between communities and building the foundations of a common and peaceful future.

8. The Council takes note of recent advances in the implementation of UN support for AMIS and in the preparation for the deployment of the AU/UN Hybrid Operation. It welcomes the decision of the AU Peace and Security Council on 22 June authorising the deployment of the Hybrid Operation, and looks forward to the early adoption of a UN Security Council Resolution in this regard. It calls on all parties to work for an acceleration of the implementation of the UN support package to AMIS and a swift transition to the Hybrid Operation, and in particular on the Sudanese government to continue cooperation with the AU and the UN to this effect. The Council remains ready to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs the implementation of the UN support package, including deployment of the Hybrid Operation. The EU commends all countries having pledged to contribute with troops or otherwise to the Hybrid Operation.

9. The EU reconfirms its resolve to continue supporting AMIS in the period leading up to the deployment of the AU/UN Hybrid Operation. Recalling the significant and urgent need for additional financial and material support to enable AMIS to fulfil its mandate and prepare for the transition to the Hybrid Operation, the Council again urges international partners to join the EU in providing the mission with fresh funds. Similarly, the EU confirms the extension of the EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS for a period of up to six months, from 1 July 2007.

10. The EU emphasises the urgent need to address the destabilising impact of the Darfur crisis on the humanitarian and security situation in neighbouring countries, and reiterates its support for the deployment of a multidimensional UN presence in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic.

11. The Council welcomes the work undertaken by the Council Secretariat and the Commission on further possible actions of the EU in Darfur and neighbouring regions and asks them to continue to elaborate on its political, humanitarian and security aspects, as set out above. The Council asks its competent bodies to continue planning in view of a possible decision on a bridging operation, in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, in support of the multidimensional UN presence in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic with a view to improving security in those areas. Any bridging operation should be based on a Resolution by the UN Security Council, with a clearly defined exit strategy, and should be conducted in full cooperation with the UN and the AU, and in consultation with the authorities of the countries concerned, as well as, as appropriate, with neighbouring countries and humanitarian organisations.'

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Council had an exchange of views regarding recent developments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, on the basis of a briefing by the Belgian minister following his visit there, in particular with regard to the security situation in the east of the country. The Council will continue to follow developments closely.

RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE

The Council took note of progress in preparations for the EU-Ukraine summit scheduled to take place in Kiev on 14 September.

The summit, the tenth to be held under the EU-Ukraine partnership and cooperation agreement, is expected to cover:

- developments in the EU and in Ukraine;
- relations with Ukraine as regards, in particular: the preparation of a new enhanced agreement, cooperation in foreign and security issues, trade, border-related issues and energy, nuclear safety and the environment;
- international issues, including Russia, Moldova and Belarus.

LIBYA

The Council discussed the latest developments after a Libyan court commuted the death sentences passed against five Bulgarian nurses and a doctor following the infection by HIV/AIDS of more than 400 children in a Libyan hospital. It will continue to follow the issue very closely in the hope of a satisfactory solution being reached as soon as possible.

MIDDLE EAST

Middle East peace process – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. Reiterating its conclusions of 18 June, the Council stresses the urgency of taking forward a credible peace process which will give the Palestinian people the perspective of an independent, democratic and viable state living side-by-side with Israel and its other neighbours in peace and security, and bring peace and stability to the Middle East. The Council calls on the parties to desist from any action that threatens the viability of this solution.

2. In this context, settlement activities in and around East Jerusalem as well as in the rest of the West Bank and the ongoing construction of the barrier on Palestinian land which are against international law are of particular concern. The EU will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders other than those agreed by the parties. Stopping all violence among the parties is of the utmost importance for the peace process to succeed. The EU strongly condemns the firing of Qassam rockets into Israeli territory. While recognising Israel’s legitimate right to self defence, the EU calls on Israel to exercise utmost restraint and underlines that action should not be disproportionate or in contradiction to international humanitarian law. While welcoming the release of the BBC journalist Alan Johnston, the EU reiterates its call for the immediate

release of the abducted Israeli soldier, and commends efforts, including by partners in the region to that effect. It equally calls for the immediate release of Palestinian legislators detained by Israel.

3. The Council strongly encourages the parties to continue their bilateral dialogue, which should both achieve concrete results and lead to meaningful political negotiations to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement. The Council welcomes the meeting between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas on 16 July and reiterates its hope that these meetings will soon lead, in the framework of a renewed political process, to meaningful negotiations on the final status. The Council emphasises again the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative as a major element in moving the Middle East Peace Process forward. It expresses its hope that the ongoing dialogue between the Arab League and Israel will support a renewed political process aimed at advancing regional peace. In accordance with the Roadmap, the Quartet, in consultation with the parties, should in due course convene an international conference to achieve these goals. In this context, the EU welcomes the speech of President Bush of 16 July and is determined to work with the US, other Quartet partners as well as partners in the region, in an effort to bring about an early end to the Israeli-Arab conflict. It expects the Quartet to participate in the international meeting proposed by President Bush and stands ready to play an active role.

4. The EU welcomes the meeting of Quartet Principals in Lisbon. In this context the EU emphasises its determination to play an active role with a view to urgently put in place a political and diplomatic process offering a political perspective in the quest for a comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict, in conformity with the relevant UNSC resolutions and on the basis of the Roadmap, notably its goals and principles. It looks forward to a meeting in the region with the Israelis and the Palestinians and representatives of the Arab League. The EU will continue to play an active role in the Quartet whose commitment is underlined by the appointment of Tony Blair as Quartet Representative. The Council warmly welcomes the appointment and looks forward to working with him.

5. The Council welcomes, as a first step, the partial transfer by Israel of withheld Palestinian tax and custom revenues but it reiterates its call for the immediate, complete and regular release of the remaining and future funds. The Council welcomes the initial release of 255 prisoners and detainees as part of the commitment by Israel following the recent meetings between President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert in Sharm el-Sheik and Jerusalem. The Council urges further steps to meet the commitments made at these meetings, including a removal of checkpoints and barriers in the West Bank. Such moves will support progress on the political track.

6. The Council reiterates its full support for President Abbas and the government under Prime Minister Fayyad. The Council reaffirms its position on events in Gaza. Reconciliation and national unity behind the programme of peace articulated by President Abbas are the only way to achieve Palestinian national goals by peaceful, lawful and democratic means. The EU opposes any division of the Palestinian territories and confirms its readiness to engage with all Palestinian parties whose policy and actions reflect the Quartet principles.

7. The EU has resumed relations with institutions of the Palestinian Authority. The EU has started to provide direct financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian government. The Council confirms its commitment to help build the institutions and economy of the future Palestinian state and stresses the need to fully develop the economy in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the promotion of cooperation with the Palestinian private sector. The

Council has confirmed its support to the Palestinian Civil Police through re-engagement of the EUPOL COPPS. The Council calls on Israel to provide the necessary conditions to this end.

8. Gravely concerned by the critical humanitarian situation, the EU will continue doing its utmost to ensure the provision of emergency and humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza, whom it will not abandon. The Council calls on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza for both humanitarian and commercial flows. Karni and other crossings must be open on a regular and predictable basis, in view of reaching the transit volumes foreseen in the Agreement on Movement and Access. This is necessary to ensure the viability of the Palestinian economy and to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people, both in Gaza and in the West Bank. It also underlines the need to re-open the Rafah crossing point and stands ready to resume the full activities of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) Rafah as soon as conditions allow.'

Lebanon – Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council condemns in the strongest terms the attacks on the UNIFIL, in particular the one that claimed the lives of six peacekeepers of the Spanish contingent on 24 June 2007. It expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the people and Government of Spain. This further attempt to destabilise Lebanon will not succeed.
2. The Council is determined to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, free from foreign interference, and reaffirms its support for the legitimate and democratic government of Prime Minister Siniora.
3. The Council remains deeply concerned regarding the continuing violence in Lebanon, and in particular the fighting in the Palestinian refugee camp at Nahr al Bared. It reiterates its condemnation of the attacks on Lebanese security forces by terrorist groups operating from Palestinian camps. It expresses its support to the Lebanese Armed Forces engaged in Nahr al Bared.
4. The Council urges all political forces in Lebanon to search for a solution to the current political deadlock and to develop the widest possible consensus for the forthcoming election of the President of the Republic and the formation of a broad-based and representative government. Dialogue and full respect for the democratic institutions of the country should be the guiding principles of the political process, in the interest of all Lebanese people.
5. In this regard, the Council welcomes the inter-Lebanese meeting facilitated by France at la Celle Saint-Cloud on 14-15 July. It welcomes the atmosphere of confidence created between the representatives of the main political forces and urges the political factions in Lebanon to honour their commitment to pursue the dialogue reinitiated in that occasion. The Council welcomes all constructive initiatives aimed at securing peace and stability, including those by the Arab League and Saudi Arabia, and calls on all parties in the region to refrain from destabilising the country.
6. The Council reaffirms its commitment to the full and speedy implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions concerning Lebanon. It reiterates the need for disbanding and disarming all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias as called for by UNSC Resolution 1559. There should be no weapons in Lebanon without the consent of its Government and no authority other than that of its Government. The Council also reaffirms its commitment to the full

and speedy implementation of Resolution 1701 and, in this regard, welcomes the latest report of the UN Secretary General. The Council reiterates its call to Israel to stop violations of Lebanese airspace by the Israeli Air Force. It stresses the importance of securing the Lebanese-Syrian border and welcomes the report of the Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team. The Council calls on all states and all parties to fully cooperate with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon established by UNSC Resolution 1757.

7. The Council reiterates its call for the immediate release of the two Israeli soldiers abducted a year ago this month.’

WESTERN BALKANS

Albania – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council welcomed the conclusion of the presidential electoral process in the Albanian Parliament in accordance with the Constitution, and the election of Mr Bamir Topi as new President. The Council reiterated its support for Albania’s European perspective, subject to fulfilment of the EU criteria, and encouraged all political forces to work together in moving forward with the reforms needed.

The Council also underlined the importance of Albania’s continued constructive role in the region.’

Kosovo

Over lunch, ministers discussed Kosovo following the failure of the UN Security Council to reach agreement on a resolution, which they regretted.

It was noted that the negotiating process would now continue for a period of around 120 days. Ministers appealed to Belgrade and Pristina to engage actively and seriously.

It was also noted that the EU should stand by existing agreed positions and that it was determined to remain united on this issue in defence of European interests, notably stability and prosperity and the European future of the Balkans.

Further discussions on the modalities of the negotiations will continue, but ministers agreed that the EU should be part of the international team facilitating negotiations.

IRAN

Over lunch, High Representative Javier Solana briefed ministers on the latest developments regarding the Iran nuclear issue, notably in the light of his meeting with the Iranian negotiator, National Security Advisor Ali Larijani, on 23 June in Lisbon.

(...)

Conventional weapons – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 23 July 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/528/CFSP IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY STRATEGY

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 and Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 December 2003, the European Council adopted a European Security Strategy which calls for an international order based on effective multilateralism. In a world of global threats, global markets and global media, the security and prosperity of the EU increasingly depend on an effective multilateral system. The development of a stronger international society, well functioning international institutions and a rule-based international order is an objective of the EU.
- (2) The European Security Strategy acknowledges the United Nations Charter as the fundamental framework for international relations. Strengthening the United Nations, equipping it to fulfil its responsibilities and to act effectively, is a European priority.
- (3) The 1980 United Nations convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, concluded at Geneva on 10 October 1980, as amended on 21 December 2001, is also known as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (hereinafter ‘CCW’) and it regulates the use in armed conflict of certain conventional arms deemed to cause excessive suffering to combatants or indiscriminate harm to civilian populations. The CCW is based upon the principle of international law that the right of the parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, and on the principle that prohibits the use in armed conflicts of weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.
- (4) On 6 December 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the CCW in which it calls upon all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the CCW and the Protocols annexed thereto, as amended, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to those instruments at an early date, and so as to ultimately achieve their universality.
- (5) The most recent of the Protocols annexed to the CCW, Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War was adopted on 28 November 2003 by the Meeting of the States Parties to the CCW (Protocol V). The Protocol V, which is the first multilaterally negotiated instrument to deal with the problem of unexploded and abandoned ordnance, is intended to eradicate the daily threat that such legacies of wars pose to populations in need for development and to humanitarian aid workers operating in the field to help them. Since its adoption, 32 States have thus far notified the UN Secretary-General, as depositary of the CCW, of their consent to be bound by Protocol V.

Pursuant to Article 5 paragraph 3 of the CCW, Protocol V entered into force on 12 November 2006. The entry into force of Protocol V demonstrates that the CCW has the potential of being a dynamic instrument responsive to advancements in weapons technology and developments in the nature and conduct of armed conflict.

(6) Despite great progress towards universal adherence, almost half of the UN Member States have not yet ratified or otherwise acceded to the CCW and its annexed Protocols. The rate of adherence remains low in Africa, Asia, in particular South-East Asia, and the Middle East. However, half of the States not yet Party to the CCW are affected by mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Universalisation of the CCW and all its annexed Protocols will remain a priority objective among States Parties in the period from 2006 to 2011.

(7) The third Review Conference of the States Parties of the CCW, held in Geneva from 7 to 17 November 2006 adopted a Plan of Action to Promote the Universality of the CCW, which sets the goals of strengthening the implementation of the CCW and its annexed Protocols, promoting universalisation and enhanced cooperation among States Parties, as well as a Sponsorship Programme.

(8) The Plan of Action to Promote the Universality of the CCW identifies the important role to be played by the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament of the UN, as well as by regional organisations as appropriate, in coordinating regional actions in accordance with the characteristics of each region, mostly in those where acceptance of the CCW remains low.

(9) The Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement, concluded between the European Community, on the one hand, and the UN, on the other hand, sets out a framework for the UN and the Community, in order to enhance their cooperation, including programmatic partnership,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

1. For the purpose of supporting the Plan of Action to Promote Universality of the CCW adopted by the States Parties to the CCW at the third Review Conference, the European Union shall support the CCW, with the following objectives:

- (i) promotion of the universality of the CCW and its annexed protocols;
- (ii) support to the implementation of the CCW by States Parties.

2. For achieving the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, the EU will undertake the following measures:

- (a) organisation of an opening workshop, up to seven regional seminars and a closing meeting, aiming at increasing the membership of the CCW, including publications in all UN official languages and any other language if required;
- (b) a financial contribution to the Sponsorship Programme, adopted at the third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW.

A detailed description of the measures referred to in paragraph 2 is set out in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

1. The Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR), shall be responsible for the implementation of this Joint Action. The Commission shall be fully associated.

2. The technical implementation of the measures referred to in Article 1(2) shall be carried out by:

- (a) the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), for the opening workshop, the closing meeting, the regional seminars and the publications;
 - (b) the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), for the contribution to the Sponsorship Programme, in accordance with the Decision of third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW. Both of them shall perform their tasks under the control of the SG/HR, assisting the Presidency. For this purpose the SG/HR shall enter into the necessary arrangements with the UN-ODA and the GICHD.
3. The Presidency, the SG/HR and the Commission shall keep each other regularly informed about the implementation of this Joint Action, in conformity with their respective competences.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the measures referred to in Article 1(2) shall be EUR 828 000 to be funded from the 2007 general budget of the European Communities.
2. The expenditure financed by the amount stipulated in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the Community procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 2, which shall take the form of a grant. For this purpose, the Commission shall conclude financing agreements with the UN-ODA and the GICHD. The financing agreements shall stipulate that the UNODA and the GICHD are to ensure visibility of the EU contribution, appropriate to its size.
4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the financing agreements referred to in paragraph 3 as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Joint Action. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of the financing agreements.

Article 4

The Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Joint Action on the basis of bi-monthly reports prepared by the UN-ODA and the GICHD. These reports will form the basis for the evaluation carried out by the Council. The Commission shall be fully associated. It shall report on the financial aspects of the implementation of this Joint Action.

Article 5

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

It shall expire 18 months after the date of conclusion of the last of the two financing agreements referred to in Article 3(3) or 12 months after the date of its adoption if no financing agreement has been concluded within that period.

Article 6

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

Done at Brussels, 23 July 2007.

For the Council

The President

L. Amado

ANNEX

1. Objective

The overall objective of this Joint Action is to support the universalisation of the CCW by promoting the accession to the CCW by States not Party to it and to enhance the implementation of the CCW.

EU assistance to the CCW will be focused on the areas identified by the Plan of Action to Promote Universality of the CCW and the Sponsorship Programme adopted by the third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW, held in Geneva from 7 to 17 November 2006.

2. Project

Purpose of the project

To increase membership of the CCW through regional and sub-regional workshops and to strengthen the implementation of the CCW and its annexed Protocols through a contribution to the Sponsorship Programme.

The aim of the opening workshop and of regional seminars will be to encourage greater membership of the CCW and to prepare for national implementation of the CCW in those regions. The workshop and the seminars will aim at explaining the benefits and consequences of acceding to the CCW and to understand the needs of the States not Party to the CCW.

The regional seminars will also serve as forums to discuss disarmament and non-proliferation issues, including SALW: ammunition, brokering and marking and tracing. They will also look into some specific principles of International Humanitarian Law.

Through a contribution to Sponsorship Programme, the EU will be supporting, inter alia, Signatory States and States not yet Parties to the CCW and its annexed Protocols to benefit from an opportunity to participate in the CCW activities and to acquire an acquaintance with the work related to the CCW. The EU will support all the operational purposes defined in the Sponsorship Programme.

Results of the project

- (i) increased membership of the CCW in all geographical regions (Central Asia, West and East Africa, Horn of Africa, Great Lakes Region and South Africa; South-East Asia, Middle East and the Mediterranean, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands);
- (ii) strengthened implementation of the CCW and its annexed Protocols;
- (iii) strengthened regional networking, involving sub-regional organisations and networks in areas relevant to the CCW;
- (iv) a publication containing the results of all the workshops, the presentations made, lessons learned and recommendations on the way forward to be published in UN official languages and in other languages as required.

Description of the project

The project provides for the organisation of one opening workshop in New York, up to seven regional workshops and a closing meeting in Geneva, the publication of materials and a contribution to the Sponsorship Programme.

(i) Opening workshop

An opening workshop will be held in New York for all States not Parties to the CCW, and in particular those States subject to recent demarches by the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union⁽¹⁾. Experts, including from EU Institutions, from Member States and from the International Red Cross Committee ('ICRC') will present the CCW legal framework and the benefits and consequences of acceding to the CCW. This workshop will aim at raising awareness in target States about the CCW as well as about this Joint Action and the regional seminars that will be organised in this context. It will also provide the EU with useful channels of communication.

Estimated cost for the opening workshop and the closing meeting – EUR 22 184.

(ii) Regional Seminars

AFRICA

(a) Seminar on the CCW for Signatory States and States not Parties in East and West Africa to bring about participation by decision-makers and regional organisations. Representatives from Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria⁽²⁾, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sudan and Tanzania, will be invited.

Several speakers, including from the ICRC, will brief the participants on the CCW legal framework and on the importance of acceding to the CCW. One or two States Party to the CCW in this region would also be invited to take part in the seminar on the basis of their relevance and interest in the universalisation process.

Estimated cost – EUR 106 036

(b) Seminar on the CCW for States not Parties in the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes Region and South Africa to bring about participation by decision-makers and regional organisations. Representatives from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Somalia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, will be invited.

Several speakers, including from the ICRC, will brief the participants on the CCW legal framework and on the importance of acceding to the CCW. One or two States Party to the CCW in this region would also be invited to make interventions on the basis of their relevance and interest in the universalisation process.

Estimated cost – EUR 61 685

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(c) Seminar on the CCW for States not Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean to bring about participation by decision-makers and regional organisations. Representatives from Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago will be invited.

Several speakers, including from the ICRC, will brief the participants on the CCW legal

[As the lay-out of this Chaillot Paper differs from the original text, the numbering of the footnotes has been changed in this Annex.]

(1) Group 1: Non-signatories, affected by ERW: Angola, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Chad, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen and Zambia. Group 2: Signatories, affected by ERW: Afghanistan, Sudan, Vietnam. Group 3: Signatories not (heavily) affected by ERW: Egypt, Iceland and Nigeria. Group 4: Other States (± 65) as appropriate.

(2) State Signatory to the CCW.

framework and on the importance of acceding to the CCW. One or two States Party to the CCW in this region would also be invited to make interventions, on the basis of their relevance and interest in the universalisation process.

Estimated cost – EUR 55 769

PACIFIC ISLANDS

(d) Seminar on the CCW for States not Parties in the Pacific Islands to bring about participation by decision-makers and regional organisations. Representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu will be invited.

Several speakers, including from the ICRC, will brief the participants on the CCW legal framework and on the importance of acceding to the CCW. One or two States Party to the CCW in this region would also be invited to make interventions on the basis of their relevance and interest in the universalisation process.

Estimated cost – EUR 129 781⁽¹⁾

CENTRAL ASIA

(e) Seminar on the CCW for Signatory States and States not Parties in Central Asia to bring about participation by decision-makers and regional organisations. Representatives from Afghanistan⁽²⁾, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will be invited.

Several speakers, including from the ICRC, will brief the participants on the CCW legal framework and on the importance of acceding to the CCW. One or two States Party to the CCW in this region would also be invited to make interventions, on the basis of their relevance and interest in the universalisation process.

Estimated cost – EUR 72 174

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

(f) Seminar on the CCW for Signatory States and States not Parties in South-East Asia to bring about participation by decision-makers and regional organisations. Representatives from Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, East Timor and Vietnam⁽³⁾ will be invited.

Several speakers, including from the ICRC, will brief the participants on the CCW legal framework and on the importance of acceding to the CCW. One or two States Party to the CCW in this region would also be invited to make interventions on the basis of their relevance and interest in the universalisation process.

MIDDLE-EAST AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

(g) Seminar on the CCW for Signatory States and States not Parties in the Middle East and the Mediterranean to bring about participation by decision-makers and regional organisations. Representatives from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt⁽⁴⁾, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen will be invited.

Several speakers, including from the ICRC, will brief the participants on the CCW legal

(1) Estimated cost for a combined Pacific Islands and South East Asia Seminar.

(2) State Signatory to the CCW.

(3) State Signatory to the CCW.

(4) State Signatory to the CCW.

framework and on the importance of acceding to the CCW. One or two States Party to the CCW in this region would also be invited to make interventions, on the basis of their relevance and interest in the universalisation process.

Estimated cost – EUR 47 677

(iii) Closing meeting

Once the above described seminars had taken place, a closing meeting will be held in Geneva to draw lessons learned and define specific ways of support for States ready to ratify the CCW. Participants will be the EU Presidency and EU institutions as well as UN-ODA, including the CCW Secretariat as appropriate, UNIDIR, ICRC and GICHD experts.

(iv) Publications

A booklet containing the work and the results of all the opening and regional workshops and the lessons learned from them will be prepared and published in UN official languages and in other languages as required. This booklet will contain recommendations on the way forward. The expertise and efforts made by the IRCC in this area will be particularly highlighted.

Estimated cost – EUR 29 851

(v) Support to the Sponsorship Programme

The EU will contribute to the Sponsorship Programme adopted by the third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW.

The EU contribution to the Sponsorship Programme will support the basic goals of that Programme, which are:

- to strengthen the implementation of the CCW and its annexed Protocols,
- to promote universal observance of the norms and principles enshrined on the CCW and its annexed Protocols,
- to support the universalisation of the CCW and its annexed Protocols,
- to enhance the cooperation, the exchange of information and the consultations among the States Parties on issues related to the CCW and its annexed Protocols.

The Sponsorship Programme might allow to provide advice and technical assistance on the implementation of the CCW to interested States upon request (Sponsorship Programme 4 (iv)).

At the third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW, the technical management of the Sponsorship Programme was entrusted to the GICHD.

Estimated cost – EUR 250 000

3. Duration

The total estimated duration for the implementation of this Joint Action is 18 months.

4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of universality-related activity are States not Party to the CCW (both Signatory States and non-Signatory States).

The beneficiaries of the contribution to the Sponsorship Programme are States Parties and not-Parties to the CCW in accordance with the basic goals of that Programme as defined above. Priority attention will be given to ERW affected States.

5. Implementing entity

The Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, is responsible for the political implementation and supervision of the Joint Action. The Presidency shall entrust the technical implementation to:

- ▶ the UN-ODA, for the opening workshop, the closing meeting, the regional seminars and the publications.

The regional workshops could be organised with the support of the Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament of the UN. In carrying out its activities, the UN-ODA shall cooperate, as appropriate, with local missions of Member States and the Commission. The expertise of the ICRC, the CCW Secretariat and UNIDIR will be used for all the foreseen activities. The opening workshop and the closing meeting will be organised by the HR's PR in close cooperation with the Presidency,

- ▶ the GICHD, in accordance with the Decision of the third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW, for the contribution to the Sponsorship Programme. The EU will be represented by the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, at the informal steering committee provided for by the Decision of the third Review Conference, on the establishment of a Sponsorship Programme. The respective roles of the informal steering committee and of the GICHD will be defined in accordance with the Decision of the third Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW.

6. Estimated required means

The EU contribution will cover 100 % of the implementation of the projects as described in this Annex. The estimated costs are as follows:

	EUR
▶ Opening workshop and closing meeting	22 184
▶ Regional seminars	
East and West Africa	106 036
Horn of Africa, Great Lakes and South Africa	61 685
Latin America and the Caribbean	55 769
Pacific Islands and South East Asia	129 781
Central Asia	72 174
Middle East and the Mediterranean	47 677
▶ Publications	29 851
Administrative expenses	36 671
Contingencies	16 082
▶ Support to the Sponsorship Programme	250 000
TOTAL COST	828 000

7. Financial reference amount to cover the cost of the projects

The total cost of the projects is EUR 828 000.

Darfur – Javier Solana

After supporting the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the African Union Mission in Darfur (AMIS), the EU sustained the swift transition to the deployment of a UN/AU Hybrid Mission. On 1 August 2007, Javier Solana welcomed the unanimous adoption by the UN Security Council of resolution 1769 authorizing the Hybrid Mission. One week later, he welcomed the result of the Arusha meeting held from 3 to 6 August with representatives from the non-signatory movements on peace in Darfur.

Brussels, 1 August 2007

JAVIER SOLANA WELCOMES THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE HYBRID FORCE IN DARFUR AND URGES ALL REPRESENTATIVES INVITED TO THE ARUSHA MEETING TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY

(...)

‘This resolution is the result of intense and constructive cooperation, which I salute, between the United Nations and the African Union. I now call on all parties to work for a swift transition from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to the Hybrid Mission. The European Union stands ready to step up its support to this end.

I pay tribute to the men and women of AMIS, who are already on the ground in the service of peace. I also commend all countries having pledged to contribute with troops or otherwise to the Hybrid Mission.

We all know that a sustainable solution to the conflict in Darfur can only be achieved through a political process and I therefore welcome the organization of a meeting of leading personalities of non-signatories of the Darfur Peace Agreement to be held in Arusha on 3-5 August under the auspices of the AU/UN. This meeting is a crucial occasion to advance the cause of peace in Darfur and to promote a conducive atmosphere for peace talks. I call on all invited parties to participate in a constructive way, so that a political settlement can be found and ensure the lasting stabilization of Darfur.’

Brussels, 7 August 2007

JAVIER SOLANA WELCOMES THE RESULT OF THE ARUSHA-MEETING ON PEACE IN DARFUR

(...)

‘The prospect of peace in Darfur has moved a significant step closer. The outcome of the AU/UN-brokered Arusha meeting on peace in Darfur is very encouraging. The common position among essential non-signatory movements is an achievement, which holds the promise of peace negotiations in the coming months.

The decision to deploy the Hybrid Operation has contributed to the current political momentum.

The EU will continue its strong support for the peace process in Darfur and urges all parties, the rebel movements and the Government of Sudan, to live up to their commitments. Now is the time to engage and demonstrate genuine dedication to put an end to this crisis.’

CCA EX07

Brussels, 14 September 2007

SECOND EU EMERGENCY AND CRISIS COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS EXERCISE (CCAEX07)

A second joint exercise to test the EU's Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements in Brussels (CCA) has been conducted successfully on Thursday 13 September and Friday 14 September.

The main aim of the exercise was to test the arrangements to respond quickly and efficiently to a crisis at EU level and the capacity of the Council and the Commission to support jointly Member States' crisis response efforts. The results confirmed that the arrangements are appropriate. The lessons learned will allow them to be improved further.

The exercise was based on a totally fictitious scenario. It assumed a simultaneous terrorist attack in certain EU Member States perpetrated with a single bio-agent. It focussed on managing the consequences of such an attack at EU level.

The theme of a biological attack was chosen because one of the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency is to reinforce national and European actions to prevent and contain biological terrorist attacks.

CCAEX07, the exercise's code name, tested for the first time the role of the permanent representatives committee (Coreper), in a CCA context. Coreper's main task was to consider and decide on the different possible responses to the crisis at EU level.

Coreper will do a preliminary evaluation of CCAEX07 on 19 September and will be presented with a draft evaluation report one month later.

ANNEX – BACKGROUND

On 1 June 2006, the Council (Justice and Home Affairs) approved interim Crisis Coordination Arrangements in Brussels (CCA). The arrangements are part of the EU's crisis management mechanisms.

The CCA provides Member States' Permanent Representatives in Brussels with a platform for exchanging information and coordinating action, in the context of an emergency or crisis whose nature is deemed to be sufficiently serious (e.g. simultaneously affecting several Member States and the interests of the Union as a whole) to require an exceptional response at 'Brussels level' in close cooperation with Member States.

The arrangements are triggered in the framework of the Council by the Member State holding the Presidency, assisted by the Council secretariat, in consultation with the directly affected Member States and the European Commission.

In setting up these arrangements, the Council invited the Council secretariat, in collaboration with the European Commission, to hold regular exercises to test the adequacy and efficiency of the CCA internal procedures.

EU-Ukraine Summit

Kiev, 14 September 2007

JOINT STATEMENT

The leaders of the European Union and Ukraine have met in Kiev today, at the annual EU-Ukraine Summit. The Summit was hosted by Mr Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, accompanied by Mr Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The EU was represented by Mr José Socrates, Prime Minister of Portugal, in his capacity as the President of the European Council, assisted by Secretary-General/High Representative Javier Solana, and by President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Durão Barroso. The President of the European Council was accompanied by Foreign Minister Luis Amado. The President of the Commission was accompanied by Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

The leaders of the EU and Ukraine reaffirmed strong and sustained ties between the Parties. Further movement of Ukraine towards consolidation of democracy, strengthening of the rule of law and respect for human rights will reinforce these ties and will contribute to a new, advanced level of relations with the EU, based upon principles of close and privileged political links, and deeper economic integration. The EU leaders emphasized that the holding of free and fair early parliamentary elections in Ukraine in September and the formation of an effective and stable Government would be the best evidence of the country's ability to accomplish this goal. The Ukrainian side reaffirmed its resolve to ensure the democratic character of the election process and abide by its results.

The Parties welcomed the important progress achieved in the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Action Plan. They noted the launch of negotiations on a new enhanced agreement, the finalisation and signature of agreements on visa facilitation and readmission and positive co-operation with the EU Border Assistance Mission at the Ukrainian-Moldovan border (EUBAM). The EU leaders emphasised that Ukraine's success in stabilising her political system would be a major factor determining her capacity to move forward with political and economic reforms.

The leaders welcomed the progress report on the negotiations on the new enhanced agreement. They reiterated their vision of the agreement as an innovative and ambitious document which goes beyond the established framework of co-operation and opens a new stage in EU-Ukraine relations. They reaffirmed their intention to launch negotiations on a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Area as a core element of the agreement following finalisation of Ukraine's accession to the WTO. In this context, the EU leaders confirmed their full support for Ukraine's progress towards WTO membership and underlined the importance of solving outstanding issues as a matter of priority.

The Summit welcomed continued close co-operation in the area of foreign and security policy, in particular on regional stability and crisis management. It noted the increasing convergence of the Parties' positions on regional and international issues through mechanisms of regular policy consultations, alignment of Ukraine with EU foreign policy positions and participation of Ukraine in EU crisis management efforts. EU leaders expressed their high appreciation of Ukraine's role in EU-led crisis management operations.

The leaders of the EU and Ukraine confirmed their intentions for further development of co-operation on the settlement of regional conflicts, non-proliferation of WMD, namely in the framework of the G8 Initiative on Global Partnership against proliferation of materials and weapons of mass destruction, fight against terrorism, prevention of emergency situations, and destruction of outdated and excessive SALW and ammunition.

The leaders of Ukraine and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to constructive cooperation to achieve a sustainable, comprehensive and just settlement to the Transnistrian conflict. Both sides emphasised the importance of the existing customs regime at the Transnistrian segment of the Ukrainian-Moldovan state border according to the Joint Statement of 30 December 2005. The Parties noted the effective work of the EUBAM as an example of mutually beneficial and successful EU-Ukraine co-operation and welcomed its prolongation for another two year period. The EU leaders encouraged Ukraine to ensure proper implementation of the Protocols of 21 November 2006 on exchange of customs and border information between Ukraine and Moldova.

The leaders also discussed the situation in Belarus and relations with Russia.

The Parties expressed satisfaction with the deepening of co-operation in the trade and economic sphere. This includes the conclusion of agreements on trade in steel products and textiles, enhanced co-operation regarding trade defence instruments and a new regular dialogue in the area of agriculture and rural development. They referred to the need for further improving the business and investment climate in Ukraine, specifically through progress on the rule of law, the reform of the judiciary and the fight against corruption. The Parties welcomed the substantial increase of trade between the EU and Ukraine in 2006. At the same time, they agreed that trade trends which include a growing trade deficit on the Ukrainian side would be subject to further discussions at expert level. They confirmed the intention to continue working closely together on the resolution of outstanding bilateral issues.

The leaders of Ukraine and the EU reaffirmed their joint strategic interest in energy cooperation.

They welcomed the significant progress achieved in implementing the priorities of the EU-Ukraine Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of energy of 1 December 2005, as reflected in the progress report presented to the Summit. They agreed to continue co-operation with the aim of advancing Ukrainian energy sector reform and of ensuring safe, reliable and transparent energy transit through Ukraine. The EU leaders commended Ukraine on obtaining observer status in the Treaty on the Energy Community and pledged EU support for her efforts to acquire membership. The Parties noted the good progress in bilateral co-operation on climate change and stressed the need to launch negotiations on a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement at the United Nations climate change conference in December this year and to complete them by 2009.

The leaders welcomed the concrete steps taken to improve nuclear safety in Ukraine, such as the successful completion of the stabilisation measures of the existing Chernobyl shelter, and the agreement reached by Ukraine, the European Commission and the IAEA on the Terms of Reference for the joint evaluation of safety of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

The Parties stressed the importance of the implementation of the revised Action Plan on Justice, Freedom and Security, endorsed by the EU-Ukraine Co-operation Council on 18 June 2007, and the accompanying Scoreboard. The Parties looked forward to the swift finalisation of negotiations on the Ukraine-Europol Strategic Agreement. The Parties welcomed the signing

of the Working Arrangements on the establishment of operational co-operation between the Ukrainian Border Guard Service and FRONTEX and the contacts initiated between relevant Ukrainian authorities and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

The Summit welcomed the signature of the agreements on visa facilitation and readmission and agreed to take all necessary measures for their quick ratification and full implementation.

Pending this, Ukraine requested EU Member States to further improve the processing of visa applications of Ukrainian citizens. The Parties recalled the joint declaration on technical and financial assistance in the framework of the readmission agreement. The Parties pledged to further develop their co-operation on JFS issues in the context of the future new enhanced agreement.

EU leaders welcomed Ukraine's European choice and emphasised that further internal reforms and introduction of European standards would bring Ukraine closer to the EU.

Javier Solana – ‘Where we stand (...)’

Summer/Autumn 2007

WHERE WE STAND: FROM BUILDING PEACE IN EUROPE TO BEING A PEACE-BUILDER IN THE WORLD – TACKLING STOCK OF THE UNION’S FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Early this year, the European Union celebrated its 50th birthday. In these 50 years, Europe has been transformed. A continent plagued by wars and confrontations has developed into a community of peace, democracy and prosperity. We have stopped killing each other and starting to work together.

This did not happen by itself. We built strong institutions and a community of law to make the integration process withstand the ebb and flow of political moods and clashes of personalities. We have learned, the hard way, that peace and stability require common rules and institutions, non-stop negotiations and a sense of compromise. We have also not abolished nations, states or sovereignty, but changed their nature. Sovereignty is now expressed not by an army at the frontier but by a seat at the table.

These successes are worth cherishing. But there is a great deal more to be done. In many ways the peaceful unification of our continent has been our great achievement. To act as a credible force for good is now our main challenge. From a continental agenda, we should move to a global agenda. From building peace in Europe to peace-builder in the world.

With respect to Europe’s global role, there is much that we have already achieved. We have expanded our capacity to respond to crises in real time – and not just send out a communiqué two weeks after the event. We have developed sophisticated crisis management concepts – bringing together civilian and military instruments. We have forged a common strategic culture – enabling us to respond early, rapidly and where necessary, robustly when a new crisis erupts. In short, there is a European way of looking at international problems and a shared sense doctrine on how to solve them.

In the years ahead, we will have to sharpen our crisis management performance in a more demanding security environment. But, first, let me sketch our present ESDP operations.

ESDP in practice: Operations

Last year, the European Union conducted 10 operations with around 10 000 men and women serving in them. The global reach and the scope of these different operations is striking. Across three continents, they cover the spectrum from ‘pure’ military operations – through security-sector reform and institution building – to police and rule-of-law missions. And their impact is significant. From Aceh to Rafah, and from Kinshasa to Sarajevo, the EU is providing the ‘key enablers’ for peace and stability.

- ▶ In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country which has seen three million of its citizens killed in a five-year conflict, we acted decisively to ensure that the electoral process enabled the peaceful transition to a democratically elected government.
- ▶ In Aceh, the EU moved quickly with its Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) partners to capitalise on their post-Tsunami desire for peace and opportunity.

- ▶ In Rafah, we acted two weeks after an Israeli and Palestinian request to enable the opening of the border crossing point. By working alongside Israelis and Palestinians, we provide the only safety valve for the pressure cooker that is Gaza.
- ▶ In the West Bank, in Kinshasa, in Darfur and in Bosnia and Herzegovina we mentor, monitor and support the local police.
- ▶ Also in Bosnia and Herzegovina our military force, run under the Berlin Plus arrangements, continues to ensure a safe and secure environment.
- ▶ We also have security-sector reform and rule-of-law training missions in the DRC and Iraq respectively.
- ▶ Most recently, we have launched our police mission in Afghanistan. Working together closely with the local police, we try to ensure that Afghan communities enjoy the benefits of increased security and to support local authorities in taking responsibility for law and order.

And the demand on the EU is increasing. This year, we will add to these responsibilities the conduct of a police and rule-of-law mission in Kosovo. In Kosovo, we will launch our largest ever civilian mission. It is already clear that this mission will form a critical part of the agenda for ESDP this year and beyond. It is also right that we take on a greater operational role in our ‘back-yard’ and our planning for this mission is well under way.

Combined, these operations represent a significant engagement by the EU on the key stability challenges. The EU has responded to the demands of its Member States, to the demands of countries in crisis and to the calls for help from the UN. And we had to respond to the changing world, even before our doctrines and structures had caught up completely.

Each crisis threw up its own set of different and unpredicted requirements: some required a rapid, robust military response to the centre of Africa, some a rapid deployment of police and border monitors to a Middle East hotspot. Some, such as Aceh, support to AMIS and EUSEC (EU mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo) required a different mix of civilian and military instruments.

And where we have acted we have succeeded. We have helped governments take forward their peace processes and we have helped to make those processes more sustainable by strengthening their institutions. Most of all, although much remains to be done, of course, in all of these places, we have improved the lives of people and given them hope.

Beyond this, let us look at how ESDP has changed our Union, and our wider impact on the world. CFSP has changed our Union and how we interact with the world. It is a vital, visible and effective part of our daily lives. Imagine a world where there were no unified positions of the EU: on Iran, on the Middle East, on Africa, on climate change and on the Doha Round?

It is true that the business of reaching unified positions is sometimes painful. But this is just a fraction of the pain felt when a common position is not reached. And, when we do not agree, the pain is not just felt by ourselves, but often far beyond.

Fortunately, this is not often the case.

ESDP and CFSP: Beyond crisis-management

CFSP strengthens the effectiveness of ESDP. The political framework gives our operations clear objectives and deep support. And ESDP has made CFSP more credible, and it has given our dialogue with third countries strength.

It makes multilateralism effective, and it helps shape the thinking of others. It means we can act together to address a range of different issues that concern us. Our unity, our influence and our action benefits us, of course. But it also serves many others. And, actually, it is often easier for us to act together than alone.

Solidarity and shared political objectives are good force generators, and our collective weight counts. It is also true that in many cases Member States can no longer act alone to any great effect.

Now, can you imagine a Europe that is just a Europe of dialogue and common positions and no action? Not for many people in Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans – who have benefited from our action. And not for many citizens of our own countries or for our many partners around the world who have been calling for more European action and not less.

However, all this risks to make us a victim of our success. We are called upon to undertake more missions and in more difficult circumstances. In Africa or in Asia, on nuclear issues, man-made or natural disasters – we are being solicited. And we have no choice but to be ready and to say ‘Yes’.

Therefore, we need to make sure we are structured and staffed to meet all these different challenges.

A global agenda

However, regarding the global agenda, there is much more. Beyond crisis-management, we will have to devote time, energy and resources to also address longer-term challenges. And perhaps the most important of these is to safeguard the capacity of the global system. If truth be told, the global system is in a poor shape.

What we are seeing is that there is a growing mismatch between our security and economics, which are increasingly global in nature, and our politics which often remain national.

Few today would dispute that in a global, interdependent world, solutions to problems will have to be forged at a global level. But the gap between this demand for ‘global governance’ and its supply is growing. Instead the multilateral system is under severe stress.

Some of the ‘old regimes’ on issues such as non-proliferation are suffering from political polarisation, growing distrust and hence a sense of malaise. On issues that have shot to the top of the agenda more recently, such as migration or organised crime, attempts to build regimes, rules and institutions are still incomplete.

Therefore, one key task for Europe for the next 50 years is to protect and develop a system of strong institutions able to tackle the problems of a new age; and to build a rules-based international order with the rules that will help us navigate the choppy waters ahead.

We will have to do so at when the world is moving to a system of continents. Europeans will only be able to project and protect their interests if are united.

New heavyweights and new bargains

But we will also need to make space at the top table. Take the G-8. At present it does not really work effectively. To become more effective, it needs to become more representative and that means changing its membership.

Why not make it a G-10 in which the ten major countries are represented based on a composite index of international weight (GDP, aid, soldiers and civilians deployed on peace support

missions)? This would not only bring China and India in but also keep some current members on their toes.

Equally we should make space for the new heavyweights at the UN Security Council. In turn, the new powers should keep in mind that with greater global influence come greater responsibilities too. To strengthen regional co-operation, could we have (semi)-permanent seats at the UNSC for the Great Powers but also for regional organisations?

I am convinced that we need stronger regional organisations: the African Union, ASEAN, Latin American structures. I also wonder whether – in the long run – the Middle East region will remain the big exception: over-armed, under-institutionalised and rife with tensions.

Then we will need to develop new bargains. On the environment and climate change. Or on forms of dialogues between cultures.

Sometimes we also need to be more serious about upholding our side of the old bargain. Non-proliferation is a good example. If we want to be credible on preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), we have to take the disarmament side and technology transfer sides of the bargain more seriously.

In addition, the multilateral system cannot only address our immediate concerns. When we talk about non-proliferation we mostly mean WMD. But for many African or Asian leaders the most urgent proliferation problem is that of small arms and light weapons.

Above all, we need to re-learn that the biggest shift in history came when we extended the rule of law. First within states and now, gradually, also among them. This gradual extension of the international rule of law has provided enormous benefits: taming the passion of states but also providing a legal framework to guide many aspects of human inter-actions at a global level.

We should step up what we are already doing. Regionally – most strikingly in Europe. But also globally on some aspects of international life. See the WTO dispute settlement system, or the International Criminal Court. We have to work hard to extend the geographic and functional reach of the international legal system.

In short, to organise our globalised world, we need to share power (with new players); re-think power (beyond the state paradigm) and tame power (extend the rule of law internationally).

International legitimacy revisited

The system of global governance needs to be made more effective. It also needs to be more legitimate. One big problem is that we all know that we live in a globalised world. But our politics remain local or national.

This is a problem for those, like me, who are convinced that the world needs more global-level, multilateral co-operation. For I am also a democrat in believing that power has to be accountable.

So the question becomes: how do you make global governance more effective while making it also democratically accountable?

A key benefit of acting multilaterally is legitimacy which in turns enhances effectiveness. As indicated earlier, this means bringing in new centres of power. But legitimacy also means bringing our publics along. If decisions are increasingly taken at the international level, people have to see these as legitimate.

Therefore, we have two imperatives: to create greater effectiveness in global governance but also to uphold democratic legitimacy. To do so is difficult. It requires new ideas and a sense of

compromise. But I really see no real alternative.

Let me end with a quote from Jean-Jacques Rousseau, from *The Social Contract*, now that we are talking about a global social contract.

‘The strongest is never strong enough to be always the master, unless he transforms strength into right and obedience into duty.’

As new powers emerge and new issues call for our engagement, Europe will have to apply itself to the task of promoting the emergence of a new international order. An international order which is based on clear rules and strong institutions.

A failure to do take up this task would mean having to live in a world shaped by and for others; a world which would be more unstable and more unjust.

Social Europe

Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement

New York, 23 September 2007

The Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – met today in New York to discuss the situation in the Middle East. They were joined by Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

The Quartet recognized the present opportunity for progress and the robust regional and international desire for peace in the Middle East. The Quartet expressed its strong support for the ongoing bilateral talks between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas and welcomed the formation of Israeli and Palestinian teams to discuss the core issues that are essential to progress towards their shared goal of a negotiated two-state solution and establishment of a viable Palestinian state living side-by-side with a secure Israel. The Quartet welcomed parallel steps taken by the parties to build confidence and improve conditions on the ground. The Quartet underscored the need for immediate additional steps to meet previous commitments, including those under the Roadmap and the Agreement on Movement and Access, so as to create a positive atmosphere conducive to progress towards a two-state solution.

The Quartet expressed support for the international meeting on Israeli-Palestinian peace called for by President Bush in his July 16 statement. Principals discussed the meeting and agreed that it should be substantive and serious, providing support to the parties in their bilateral discussions and negotiations in order to move forward urgently on a successful path to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that will unite all Palestinians. The goal of this meeting is to bring together key members of the international community in support of efforts between the Israelis and Palestinians to end their conflict and help bring a final peace in the Middle East. The Quartet expects the meeting to affirm its support for the two-state solution based on a rejection of violence and its support for progress by the parties in their bilateral discussions. The meeting should also review progress that has been made toward building Palestinian institutions and discuss innovative and effective ways to support further Palestinian reform. The Quartet will work for a successful international meeting and for the implementation of its conclusions.

Quartet Representative Tony Blair briefed the Quartet on his meetings and discussions in the region, and discussed the way forward on the development of a functioning Palestinian economy, and the institutions of governance that will form the foundation of a Palestinian state. The Quartet agreed that Mr. Blair should work closely with the Palestinian Authority government in developing a multi-year agenda for institutional and economic development, and looked forward to strong technical and financial support from the international community in support of these efforts, beginning with the September 24 Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting. In that context, the Quartet called upon all countries that are able to contribute to urgently provide financial support to the Palestinian Authority. The Quartet endorsed an extension of the Temporary International Mechanism until December 31, 2007, and expressed its hope that during this period a mechanism would be established to facilitate the transition to direct international assistance to this Palestinian Authority government.

The Quartet expressed concern over conditions in Gaza. It agreed on the importance of continued emergency and humanitarian assistance. The Quartet called for the continued provision of essential services. It expressed its urgent concern over the continued closure of major crossing points given impact on the Palestinian economy and daily life. The Quartet further noted its grave concern over the continued rocket fire from Gaza into Israel, and recent efforts by Hamas to stifle freedom of speech and the press.

The Quartet discussed its forthcoming meeting with members of the Arab League follow up committee to consult on next steps on the Arab Peace Initiative and regional support for bilateral talks between the parties.

The Quartet reaffirmed its commitment to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on UNSCRs 242 and 338.

European Defence Agency

Brussels, 25 September 2007

EDA STEERING BOARD AGREES PATH TO IMPLEMENTING DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

European Union governments today agreed a series of specific steps and timetables for implementing a strategy to strengthen the Defence Technological and Industrial Base (DTIB) by strengthening competition and cooperation in Europe and focusing more deliberately on the needs of the future.

A meeting of the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency, held at the level of National Armaments Directors, reviewed a series of roadmaps for delivering the ground-breaking strategy agreed by defence ministers last May.

‘Ministers have recognised that individual Member States can no longer sustain their separate DTIBs on a purely national basis, and that we need to specialise and become more dependent on each other at a European level,’ said Eero Lavonen, who chaired the meeting on behalf of Javier Solana, Head of the Agency.

‘The roadmaps agreed today provide the key milestones to implement successfully the policies and approaches set out in the strategy,’ he added.

In keeping with the EDA’s mandate to try to integrate different aspects of the defence agenda, the roadmaps cover a broad range of activities, including identification of key industrial capabilities, security of supply between countries, increased competition in the defence equipment market, deepening and diversifying the supplier base, and improved armaments cooperation.

The Steering Board agreed that rapid progress was needed before the new EDA Chief Executive presents the first annual report on the progress of the strategy to ministers next spring.

A key element of the implementation is pressing ahead with the successful market initiatives already undertaken, such as the Code of Conduct for Defence Procurement. In that context, the Steering Board agreed that, despite the substantial volume of business (an estimated €10 billion) now advertised on the Agency’s Electronic Bulletin Board (www.eda.europa.eu/ebb), more needed to be done to increase cross-border bids and contract awards.

‘Creating a European market is a joint endeavour by industry and governments and it is understandable that the supply side should take some time to adapt to a world in which, for the first time, defence procurement is being done on a pan-European basis,’ Lavonen said.

The Steering Board also approved a Code of Conduct for coordinating investment in the Defence Test and Evaluation Base (DTEB), designed to avoid duplication and encourage the sharing of these expensive facilities. The code, modeled on the framework for the defence equipment market, aims at promoting transparency and encouraging coordination of new investments in the field of defence Test & Evaluation facilities.

The basic principle of the code, which will be operational on 1 January 2008, is mutual disclosure among the subscribing Member States of any planned DTEB investment worth more than €1 million – to enable a coordinated investment, or reciprocal use of such facilities.

On other matters, the National Armaments Directors:

- reviewed the plans for taking forward the initiative for inserting Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) into regulated air space and noted with pleasure the emergence of promising collab-

orative technology demonstrator projects; (including work on Sense Avoid technologies by Sweden and France, and Germany);

- ▶ took stock of the work being done by the Agency for certification and standardisation in Software Defined Radio, agreeing the need for such capabilities in Europe;
- ▶ approved the setting-up of an ad hoc EDA Materiel Standardization Group and Guidelines for the Selection and Use of Defence Materiel Standards.

The Directors also noted with satisfaction the Agency's cooperation with the Commission on many of its agendas.

Finally, the Steering Board expressed its thanks and deep appreciation for the outstanding contribution made by the outgoing EDA Chief Executive, Nick Witney, who was attending his last meeting of the Agency's governing body before handing over to Alexander Weis on 1 October.

'It is impossible to overstate Nick's part in the success of this enterprise, as head of the Agency Establishment Team which mapped out the new institution and as its first leader,' Lavonen said. 'He has consistently set out the facts about European defence, reminded us of what we have said we want to achieve, presented specific and practical proposals, and cajoled and encouraged us to reach agreements. He can be very proud of what the Agency has accomplished.'

'It has been a privilege to lead the Agency during its first years and to work with such a dedicated and talented team inside the EDA, and such a diverse set of stakeholders within Brussels, and across Europe. In the participating Member States, in other institutions and in the defence industry, the EDA is lucky to have so many supportive friends,' Witney said.

'I know that, with their help, Alexander Weis will be able to take the work of the Agency forward with confidence and great success,' he added.

SUMMARY OF REPORT TO EDA STEERING BOARD ON WORKING OF DEFENCE PROCUREMENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Following are the main points of the report to the EDA Steering Board on the first year of working of the Code of Conduct (CoC) on defence procurement and the Code of Best Practice in the Supply Chain (CoBPSC) and the associated Electronic Bulletin Boards (EBB), for Government contract opportunities and Industry contract opportunities.

- ▶ The implementation of the CoC has been generally successful as regards transparency, the volume of business opportunities advertised and broad commitment shown by the subscribing Member States (SMS).
- ▶ The volume of Government contract opportunities posted on the EBB has steadily grown. By 1 September 2007, 15 of the 24 SMS have published more than 227 contract opportunities with a total value cautiously estimated at around €10 billion Euros.
- ▶ To date SMS have published 26 Contract Award Notices (CAN) with competition for a total value of €156M, 2 being to suppliers in other European countries and 16 awarded to SMEs. It should be taken into consideration that there is still limited cross-border bidding by industry.
- ▶ The EDA has been informed about 83 government contracts falling under the exceptions of the CoC, mostly for 'supplementary goods and services' and 'follow-on work', which seems to be a reasonable and relatively restrictive use of the follow-on exceptions.
- ▶ The number of actively participating buying companies in the 'Industry-to-Industry busi-

ness opportunities' part of the EBB has increased to 18 companies; 136 Industry contract opportunities have been currently advertised with a value of potential business over €120M.

- More needs to be done nevertheless to raise awareness in industry (especially at the sub-prime level) of the opportunity the EBB represents and to continue working on a number of aspects which still affect fair competition across borders (e.g. Security of Supply).

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Contact Group Statement

New York, 27 September 2007

STATEMENT ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Contact Group has played a central role in efforts to achieve peace and stability in the Balkans for the past fifteen years. Since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995, substantial progress has been achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the terms of the agreement and on reforms necessary to ensure the stability and sustainability of the country.

Contact Group Ministers are concerned, however, that over the past 18 months, progress on Dayton Implementation and reform has come to a halt, and extremist rhetoric has been on the rise. Ministers urge Bosnia and Herzegovina's leaders to put polemics aside and focus on the pressing issues that will promote a normal and improved quality of life for the country's citizens, as well as progress toward the EU. Ministers expressed their full support for the High Representative Miroslav Lajcak and his efforts to fully support the Dayton Accords and to advance reforms, particularly police restructuring, which are essential for Bosnia and Herzegovina to move forward and build a better future for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Contact Group reiterates its support for the Dayton Peace Accords and for the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ministers underscore that it is time for Bosnia and Herzegovina's politicians to end the practice of questioning the fundamental structure of the state or its component parts. Changes to the governing structures of Bosnia and Herzegovina can only be made in accordance with established procedures in the constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Kosovo – Statements and New York Declaration

New York, 27-28 September 2007

In light of remaining differences in the United Nations Security Council on Kosovo and subsequent agreement in the Contact Group to drive the process forward, it was decided on 1 August 2007 to engage in further negotiations between Pristina and Belgrade under the auspices of a EU/Russia/US Troika. The first Troika-facilitated direct talks between the parties were held on 28 September following the Ministerial Contact Group meeting in New York on 27 September 2007. The parties agreed on the 'New York declaration' reaffirming their willingness to engage seriously in these talks. Further meetings would then be held on five occasions: 14 and 22 October, 5, 20 and 28 November. The Troika process would be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December 2007.

CONTACT GROUP MINISTERS – STATEMENT ON KOSOVO

Contact Group Ministers, together with the UN Secretary General, EU High Representative, the European Union Presidency, European Commissioner for Enlargement and the NATO Secretary-General met in New York on 27 September to discuss the Kosovo Status Process. They heard a report from the EU/Russia/US Troika. A representative of UNOSEK was also present.

Ministers reiterated that an early resolution of Kosovo's status is crucial to the stability and security of the Western Balkans and Europe as a whole. Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to seek a negotiated settlement endorsed by the UN Security Council. Ministers expressed their appreciation for the continued efforts by UNMIK and KFOR to contribute towards a multi-ethnic, peaceful and democratic Kosovo. They endorsed fully the UN Secretary General's assessment that the status quo is not sustainable. It has damaging consequences for Kosovo's political, social and economic development and for the underlying stability of the region. A solution therefore has to be found without delay.

When they met in New York in September 2006, Contact Group Ministers encouraged the UN Special Envoy to prepare a comprehensive proposal for a status settlement. The proposal, submitted after 14 months of negotiations, has been accepted by Pristina and rejected by Belgrade.

As a further effort to achieve a negotiated settlement, the Contact Group established a Troika whose task would be to facilitate a period of further discussion between the parties. The Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group report to the UN Secretary General by 10 December.

Ministers expressed full support for the Troika process and welcomed the quick pace of activity and the constructive atmosphere of the first rounds of talks. Ministers reiterated their view that the Contact Group's Guiding Principles of November 2005 should continue to set the framework for the status process, which is based on UNSCR 1244.

The next step in the Troika process will involve direct talks between the parties in New York on 28 September. Contact Group Ministers welcomed this move to face-to-face discussions. Ministers urged both sides to approach the remaining negotiations with creativity, boldness, and in a spirit of compromise. Furthermore, any settlement needs to be acceptable to the people of Kosovo, ensure standards implementation with regard to Kosovo's multi-ethnic character, and promote the future stability of the region. Ministers underlined that any future status settlement should focus on developing the special nature of the relations between the two sides,

especially in their historical, economic, cultural and human dimensions.

Ministers urged the parties to take seriously the opportunity created by the Troika process to secure a negotiated settlement. The onus is on each of the parties to develop realistic proposals. Although the Special Envoy's Comprehensive Proposal remains on the table, the Contact Group is ready to support any agreement reached between the parties. Ministers reiterated that striving for a negotiated settlement should not obscure the fact that neither party can unilaterally block the status process from advancing. Ministers supported the continued engagement of the UN, and welcomed NATO and EU readiness to play a leading role in the implementation of a status settlement for Kosovo and to continue the necessary preparations for these responsibilities. Ministers welcomed the active approach adopted by the EU in the light of the European perspective of the Western Balkans region.

Ministers noted and welcomed the undertakings made to the Troika by both sides to refrain from provocative words and actions and call on the parties to honour these commitments. Political developments in Kosovo and Serbia should not interfere with the parties' constructive engagement in the Troika process. They expressed their hope that elections, due in Kosovo on 17 November, would take place with full participation of all communities and against a calm and orderly background.

All those present at the meeting will remain closely engaged with the process and fully supportive of the Troika's efforts.

TROIKA MEETING WITH BELGRADE AND PRISTINA – STATEMENT

The U.S./EU/Russia negotiating Troika met in New York City on September 28 with leaders of Kosovo and Serbia to discuss Kosovo's future status. The Belgrade delegation was led by President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica. The Pristina delegation was led by President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Agim Ceku.

The Troika initially facilitated two hours of direct dialogue between the parties. This was the third face-to-face meeting of leaders since the Kosovo future status process began in 2005 and the first such meeting held under Troika auspices. After the direct dialogue, the Troika met separately with each side to explore further the parties' positions.

The atmosphere of these meetings was cooperative. Belgrade presented its vision of substantial autonomy for Kosovo within Serbia's borders. Pristina presented its vision of friendship and cooperation between two independent states and full implementation of the minority rights protections recommended by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari. The Troika encouraged the parties to present their proposals in a way that would appeal to the other side.

The parties agreed on the 'New York declaration' reaffirming their willingness to engage seriously and refrain from making statements that could undermine the security situation in Kosovo. The text of this declaration is attached.

The Troika will next meet with the parties in Brussels on October 14. The Contact Group will report back to the UN Secretary General about the Troika's efforts by 10 December. The Troika reaffirmed its commitment to use the remaining time to explore every avenue of possible compromise between the parties in order to reach negotiated agreement.

(...)

NEW YORK DECLARATION

At their meeting with the Troika on 28 September in New York City, both delegations welcomed the first direct talks between the parties held under Troika auspices. The parties reiterated their commitment to engage seriously in these talks. The Troika reminded the parties of the Secretary-General's statement of 1 August that the status quo is not sustainable.

The two delegations were informed of the statement of the Contact Group at its Ministerial Meeting in New York City on 27 September. Ministers reiterated, inter alia that an early resolution of Kosovo's status is crucial to the stability and security of the Western Balkans and Europe as a whole. Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to seek a negotiated settlement endorsed by the UNSC. Contact Group Guiding principles should continue to set the framework for status process, based on UNSC Resolution 1244. Ministers also urged both sides to approach the remaining negotiations with creativity, boldness and in a spirit of compromise. They urged the parties to take seriously the opportunity created by the Troika process to secure a negotiated settlement. They also reminded the parties that the onus was on each of them to develop realistic proposals and that neither party could unilaterally block the process from advancing. Ministers underlined that any future status settlement should focus on developing the special nature of the relations between the two sides, especially in their historical, economic, cultural and human dimensions.

Acknowledging that violence, provocation and intimidation would constitute a grave risk for the Troika process as well as for the stability and security of the region, both parties reaffirmed their commitment, as expressed in the Vienna document of 30 August, to refrain from any activities or statements that might jeopardize the security situation.

Both parties understand that the Contact Group will report to the UN Secretary General by 10 December, 2007. In this regard, they welcomed the Troika's intention to intensify its work programme with a view to reaching agreement before the Troika's mandate concludes.

Accepted by both delegations at the first Troika-led direct meeting in New York City on 28 September and confirmed in the presence of all members of the Troika.

Informal meeting of the Defence Ministers

Evora, 29 September 2007

On 28 and 29 September, an informal meeting of the 27 European Defence Ministers took place at Evora. This meeting gave rise to two in-depth dialogues with the African Union, and with the five countries of the Western Mediterranean (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia). Javier Solana's remarks in the press conference held after the meeting are reproduced below.

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

'It was a very good meeting this morning. I couldn't be here yesterday because I was in New York [for the UN General Assembly's ministerial week] talking about items that are discussed also here but in another perspective. There was talk in particular about an operation that was discussed here among the ministers of defense [Chad/CAR].

This meeting has been very substantive. The topics discussed this morning on Africa and cooperation with the African Union have to be seen in the perspective of the important summit that will take place under the presidency of Portugal between Africa and Europe. In this respect, the element of security, the element of cooperation in security, is absolutely necessary and that was recognised by the President of the African Union, the minister of defense of Ghana, who was with us this morning. The Mediterranean is also without any doubt a priority for us, so thank you very much [to the Presidency] for the way that you led this meeting.

Q&A:

[On the continuation of this EU commitment to Africa beyond the Portuguese presidency:]

In the operation we did in Congo [in 2006] which is a very important operation from the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)'s point of view, the leading headquarters was not from the southern countries of the EU but was from Germany. Everybody in the EU is concerned about Africa, not only the Southern part. We should also remember that we have the Euro-Mediterranean process, where from the very beginning we aimed to put a charter of security. It was difficult at that time but it is not that difficult today, there is an interest for that for every member of the EU.

[On alleged difficulties to provide funding for the forthcoming EU mission in Chad:]

The mission will be not only about Chad but also about the Central African Republic. I don't think you can say that we are having difficulties at this point in time.

The first force generation meeting has still not been called, it was an informal meeting. I can tell you that Thursday and Friday we had a very good meeting in New York when we talked about Sudan with the Secretary General of the UN and the President of the African Union, President Konaré.

As far as Sudan is concerned as you know the hybrid force needs to be deployed as soon as possible but also the [EU] operation has to be deployed in Chad and the Central African Republic because the problem in Sudan and the problem with Chad is not only a problem in Sudan; it is a regional problem and our presence is important to guarantee regional security. Let

me say also that the UN will deploy a police mission in Chad and in the Central African Republic. For that mission, the presence of the European Union on the ground is also very important.

[On reported French plans to return into the military structure of NATO if there is a qualitative leap forward in European security and defence policy:]

Well it's obviously up to the French to take that decision; we don't have any firm information at the moment as to how the discussion is moving within the French Government. So it is not up to us to comment on what is not yet being decided. Once France has decided, they will share their thoughts, feelings, conditions with us; but it is too early to have a discussion on that.

[On the ongoing talks on Kosovo's status:]

Yesterday in New York the first meeting of the so-called 'Troika' took place. It was chaired by the Europeans, with Kosovars and Serbs together; before that day the meetings were not the two together with the Troika.

Three lessons:

The idea to have the Troika and to start the second part of negotiation – everybody agreed that it was a good idea; the statement of the contact group was very clear, and for the contact group as you know the Russians are also in.

The meeting yesterday was a very relaxed, constructive meeting; there was a document approved by both sides, this is the first time that such a thing is taking place.

The next meeting will take place pretty soon and it will be in Brussels.'

Javier Solana – White Paper on defence

Paris, 4 October 2007

On 4 October Javier Solana addressed the committee set up to draft a White Paper on defence and national security in France. He advocated that, in response to new international strategic challenges (globalisation, internal and external security, energy insecurity) the European Security and Defence Policy should be strengthened by the pooling of capacities, the coordination of responses to natural disasters and the sharing of intelligence.

AUDITION DEVANT LA COMMISSION SUR LE LIVRE BLANC SUR LA DÉFENSE ET LA SÉCURITÉ NATIONALE

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Intervenir devant la Commission voulue par le Président de la République et présidée par Jean-Claude Mallet est pour moi un honneur.

Le but de l'exercice a été fixé par Nicolas Sarkozy : aborder sans préjugé, de façon ouverte et transparente les choix auxquels la France, et le reste de l'Europe aussi, seront confrontés dans les quinze prochaines années en matière de défense et de sécurité.

Avant de répondre à vos questions, vous me permettrez quelques réflexions. Sur l'état du monde d'abord. Sur l'Europe ensuite.

Sur l'état du monde

Je me limiterai à trois observations.

Première observation : là où nous voyons des défis, d'autres peuvent voir des opportunités. Le monde est devenu plus incertain, moins juste et moins stable. La globalisation comporte autant de menaces que d'atouts. C'est une lourde responsabilité que de livrer un diagnostic aussi sombre.

Reste qu'à Hanoi ou à Santiago, à Monrovia ou à Alger, on pourra ne pas faire le même constat : aujourd'hui on y vit sans doute mieux qu'hier. Pour autant, on ne juge pas non plus là bas que le « nouvel état du monde » est satisfaisant.

C'est là une première difficulté. Nous savons quelles menaces pèsent aujourd'hui sur la sécurité des citoyens français et européens. Mais, dans le même temps, nous savons qu'une majeure partie de la planète ne pense pas que le monde va plus mal. Plus simplement, elle revendique une place et une reconnaissance nouvelles. Nul choc des civilisations donc, mais plutôt nouveaux conflits d'intérêts ou recherche de nouveaux équilibres.

Pour mieux faire face à ces évolutions, il nous faut assumer que l'Autre reste différent et pense différemment de nous. Notre grille de lecture du monde n'est pas universelle. L'accepter doit nous aider à mieux comprendre le monde.

Seconde observation : sécurité intérieure et sécurité extérieure sont indissolublement liées ; mais aller prévenir la menace au loin et en amont devient plus compliqué lorsqu'en réalité une partie de la menace réside déjà chez nous.

Une infime minorité a décidé de recourir aux méthodes les plus barbares pour que le monde aille plus mal. En prétextant que l'immense majorité n'a pas les moyens de se plaindre de sa condition.

C'est ainsi que les attentats de New York ont démontré de la manière la plus terrible qui soit le lien entre sécurité intérieure et sécurité extérieure.

Prévenir la menace est devenu impératif. A la source. En intervenant de différentes manières et à bon escient. Depuis l'Afghanistan jusqu'au Congo, des Balkans au Moyen-Orient. Mais dans le même temps, les attentats de Londres ont eux démontré que le « home-grown terrorism » est un phénomène désormais implanté au cœur de nos sociétés.

L'un dans l'autre, il devient donc plus difficile de mobiliser les opinions et les ressources pour expliquer et financer les politiques qui permettront d'aller traiter ailleurs, a la source, les menaces.

Or la prévention ne peut pas être exclusivement domestique. Elle ne peut être non plus exclusivement sécuritaire : les pays occidentaux dépensent par an plus de 1 000 milliards de dollars pour leur défense, et moins de 100 milliards pour l'aide publique au développement. N'y a-t-il pas là une marge pour procéder à certains rééquilibrages, qui pourront être au demeurant mieux acceptés par les opinions ?

Troisième observation : les questions de prolifération et d'énergie doivent être au cœur de notre réflexion stratégique.

Ces questions, elles aussi directement liées l'une à l'autre, domineront le vingt-et-unième siècle. C'est évident. Mais comment espérer les régler sans avoir apporté des solutions aux grands déséquilibres hérités du vingtième siècle ?

Vous comprenez mieux ici le sens de mes premiers commentaires.

Que nous sert d'améliorer le fonctionnement du marché intérieur de l'énergie, si nous ne sommes pas capables de comprendre les nouveaux enjeux de l'Asie centrale et de savoir ce qui se passe à Kashagan ? AREVA, l'ENI, SHELL ou ENDESA continueront-elles de détenir leurs positions si nous ignorons les plans d'ATOMPROM ou de PetroChina ? Peut-on renforcer notre panoplie anti-terroriste sans travailler à la paix de Gaza à Nahr El Bared, de Jérusalem à Téhéran, de Mogadiscio à Nouakchott ?

L'Européen du vingt-et-unième siècle sera citoyen du monde. C'est-à-dire qu'il sera encore plus nomade et plus consumériste. En tant que citoyen, il demandera davantage de comptes. En tant que touriste, il demandera plus de liberté mais aussi plus de sécurité à travers le monde. En tant que consommateur, il demandera simplement plus et mieux. Et ce, dans un monde plus compliqué et dans lequel il y a un problème de répartition des ressources. C'est cela la globalisation. Et c'est à cette réalité que l'Europe doit nous permettre de mieux faire face.

L'Europe donc

L'Europe est définitivement, à mes yeux, le bon niveau.

Je ne vous surprendrai pas en disant cela. Mais regardons la réalité en face. Décider et agir à 27 est bien sûr plus compliqué. Il faut l'accepter : 27 Etats, avec des histoires, et des géographies également, différentes ne peuvent pas réagir dans l'instant, comme un seul homme, lorsque survient une crise.

Certes. Mais il est encore plus difficile, dans le monde actuel, de réagir seul face au trafic de matières fissiles, à la nouvelle criminalité organisée ou à la grippe aviaire.

Et dans le même temps, l'expérience démontre, au quotidien, sur le terrain, que les coalitions ad hoc ne sont pas non plus la panacée : pour être efficace, le système doit reposer sur des institutions solides, et non des alliances de circonstances.

Nous ne le répèterons jamais assez : l'Europe génère un quart du PNB mondial. Elle est la première puissance commerciale au monde. Elle est le modèle le plus abouti et le plus vaste d'intégration politique fondé sur le droit et les libertés. Elle représente la moitié de l'aide au développement.

Elle a cette manière unique au monde, d'agir par le dialogue et la coopération, de jeter des ponts, et de parler au nom de ceux qui sont trop souvent condamnés au silence.

Au final, l'Europe réussit à devenir un acteur global. De plus en plus sollicité, et donc mieux écouté et davantage respecté. Elle peut être une cible. Mais l'Union en tant que telle n'est pas considérée comme une menace. C'est là un atout considérable qu'il nous faut savoir préserver et utiliser. Avec la volonté réelle de devenir un acteur de la future gouvernance mondiale.

Parallèlement à cet objectif, il en est un autre, complémentaire et tout aussi essentiel : protéger ses citoyens et défendre ses intérêts. C'est pourquoi le renforcement de notre politique de sécurité et de défense reste impératif.

Une précision néanmoins à ce stade de l'analyse. Je vous parle de PESD. Pas de PESC. Mais il est évident, à mes yeux, que la consolidation de la PESC est tout autant nécessaire : à quoi nous serviront de nouveaux outils si nous nous divisons sur le Kosovo ?

Sur la PESD donc. Des progrès considérables ont été accomplis depuis 2000. Grâce à l'enthousiasme et à la persévérance, de tous ceux qui, au cas par cas, ont su inventer des solutions au fur et à mesure des problèmes. En déployant des missions pour contribuer à une meilleure sécurité sur le terrain, condition indispensable au succès de l'assistance économique et de l'aide au développement.

L'Union européenne a lancé plus d'une quinzaine d'opérations. Pour former les polices afghanes, palestiniennes ou bosniaques; pour sécuriser, hier, les premières élections démocratiques congolaises et, demain, stabiliser la zone entre le Tchad et le Darfour; pour surveiller le désarmement de la guérilla en Indonésie; pour former des magistrats géorgiens et irakiens, des douaniers ukrainiens et palestiniens.

Soyons clairs : je vous parle d'opérations PESD, mais vous devez comprendre prévention et règlement des conflits, lutte contre le terrorisme et les divers trafics de drogue ou d'être humains. Je vous parle des progrès de la PESD, mais à l'énoncé des théâtres, vous devez comprendre que les missions n'ont rien de facile. Loin de là.

A fortiori quand on sait que le système actuel a atteint ses limites. En termes de cohérence, c'est-à-dire de visibilité. Et en termes de capacités, c'est-à-dire d'efficacité.

L'accord intervenu au Conseil européen de juin arrive à ce titre au bon moment. Il faut désormais tout faire pour veiller à l'approbation du Traité simplifié. Le nouveau dispositif devra permettre de faire bouger les lignes. Il doit permettre une plus grande cohérence, et donc une plus grande efficacité. Il exigera une mise en œuvre ambitieuse. La pérennité d'une politique dépend en effet de son utilité, pratique mais aussi de son ancrage institutionnel.

Comment donc renforcer la PESD ? Plusieurs pistes sont possibles. J'en suggérerai trois.

D'abord la piste des capacités. Encore et toujours. Les Européens doivent faire plus d'efforts. Ceci suppose une optimisation et une progression des dépenses de défense que la France a fort heureusement confirmé.

Pour y aider, il y a bien sûr la voie des « battlegroups ». Ils sont en effet un outil puissant de transformation et d'interopérabilité. Leur meilleure préparation et leur entraînement sont indispensables. Ils permettront d'avoir une vision claire de ce que les Européens peuvent réellement faire aujourd'hui et devront faire demain pour assumer leurs responsabilités et garantir leur sécurité.

L'Agence européenne d'armement constitue une autre voie. Il faudra là aussi veiller à renforcer l'Agence, plus investir et soutenir les « plans de développement des capacités » de l'Agence ainsi que bien sûr ses programmes en matière de recherche et développement. C'est là une base de coopération fondamentale entre les Etats membres.

La question de la relation à l'OTAN peut également être regardée sous l'angle des capacités. En renforçant ses capacités, l'Europe rendra plus efficace la complémentarité avec l'Alliance sur les différents théâtres d'intervention qu'elles se partagent désormais.

En développant des structures plus opérationnelles, c'est-à-dire de vraies capacités de planification, l'Europe y contribuera aussi. Autrement dit, seule une approche « gagnant-gagnant » permettra aux deux organisations de mieux faire face aux nouveaux défis.

La réponse aux catastrophes pourrait offrir une nouvelle piste. Parce qu'il y a une demande manifeste des opinions et des gouvernements européens. Parce que sur des théâtres extérieurs, ce type d'opération ne peut que renforcer la légitimité de l'Union européenne : voyez l'opération à Aceh, pour aider au désarmement des rebelles après le Tsunami, et la crédibilité qu'elle nous a donné auprès des 10 pays de l'ASEAN.

Parce qu'enfin la nature même des missions de protection civile permettrait d'adopter la meilleure approche qui soit : une approche basée sur des solidarités de fait entre des groupes de pays intéressés par les mêmes problèmes et désireux de mutualiser leurs moyens – des bateaux et des aéronefs dans le domaine maritime pour lutter contre l'immigration clandestine et les divers trafics, des hélicoptères et des canadiens pour lutter contre les incendies, des spécialistes des accidents nucléaires, des spécialistes des tremblements de terre ou de certains types d'attentats.

Troisième piste possible : le renseignement.

Un seul réseau ne suffit pas. La découverte trop tardive du problème « Khan » l'a montré. Il ne s'agit pas d'envisager un « Service européen ». Nullement. L'échange d'informations et la collaboration entre services nationaux peuvent, et doivent même parfois, s'affranchir du cadre bruxellois.

Mais à quoi bon détecter une menace particulière, une filière clandestine, un réseau de madrasahs problématiques pour ensuite nous priver de tous les outils dont nous disposons, de la PESD aux leviers économiques et financiers de la Communauté, et ainsi écarter la possibilité de traiter le problème en amont ?

Tout est une question d'articulation et de confiance. Y travailler ensemble serait, je crois, dans l'intérêt de la sécurité et de la défense de chaque Etat-membre. Des progrès considérables ont été accomplis ces dernières années pour mieux échanger les renseignements et aider à la prise de décision à Bruxelles. Il faut poursuivre dans cette direction et continuer de renforcer les structures mises en places depuis 2002.

Sur chacun de ces volets, la France a une responsabilité particulière. Cette responsabilité sera plus forte encore durant sa Présidence de l'Union européenne. De ses propositions et de ses réalisations dépendront les prochaines étapes. Il faudra une volonté ferme et des convictions solides. Mais par avance, je sais que nous pourrons compter sur son engagement.

Je vous remercie.

South Africa-EU Strategic Partnership

Tshwane, 10 October 2007

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Within the framework of the South Africa- European Union Strategic Partnership, the second Ministerial Troika was held in Tshwane, South Africa, on 10 October 2007. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E Dr Nkosazana DLAMINI ZUMA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, and H.E. Dr Luís AMADO, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal for the EU Presidency.

The South African delegation included H.E. Trevor MANUEL, Minister of Finance, H.E. Marthinus VAN SCHALKWYK, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, H.E. Mandisi MPAHLWA, Minister of Trade and Industry, H.E. Buyelwa SONJICA, Minister of Minerals and Energy, as well as H.E. Mluleki GEORGE Deputy Minister of Defence.

The EU Troika also included Mr Louis MICHEL, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid of the European Commission, Mr Matja ŠINKOVEC, State Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister of Slovenia, and Mr Koen VERVAEKE, Head of the Africa Unit, Council Secretariat.

Relations between South Africa and the EU continue to deepen. Building on shared values and common interests, relations have developed over thirteen years into a mutually beneficial and comprehensive partnership based on equality. Following the adoption of the Joint Action Plan at the SA-EU Joint Co-operation Council on 14 November 2006, South Africa and the EU are building on the strong and productive relations through the implementation of a Strategic Partnership that is based on an open and concrete dialogue and which is being pursued on the basis of mutual understanding and ownership of the process.

Report of the 8th SA-EU Joint Cooperation Council

Ministers heard a report from the SA-EU Joint Cooperation Council, held earlier today at Senior Officials level under the joint chairmanship of Dr Ayanda NTSALUBA, Director General of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs, and Prof. Manuel CORREIA, President of the Portuguese Institute for Cooperation and Development. The Report outlined ongoing cooperation in areas of trade, development, science and technology and the environment, as well as a progress report of the Revision of the TDCA.

Implementation of the Joint Action Plan of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership

Ministers also discussed new areas of cooperation being developed under the Joint Action Plan, including peace and security cooperation, customs cooperation, energy cooperation, as well as a transport and human rights dialogue.

Joint EU-Africa Strategy / EU-Africa Summit

The EU informed of progress in the preparation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and its Action Plan which are to be presented at the EU-Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting in Accra, Ghana, on

31 October 2007 and agreed at the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon on 8-9 December 2007. Both sides expressed their expectation that the Summit and the adoption of the Joint Strategy will mark a step change to setting up a broad based political and strategic partnership between the EU and Africa. South Africa emphasised that the Joint EU-Africa Strategy should be supportive of Africa's larger development goals. Ministers agreed to cooperate within the context of the South Africa-EU Joint Action Plan to ensure the full implementation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy.

Millennium Development Goals

Ministers noted that 2007 was the midpoint for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and called on all Parties to implement their global commitments in order to achieve the goals by 2015.

EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement

Ministers reaffirmed the urgent need for the Parties to conclude by the end of the year a mutually beneficial agreement which also addresses developmental needs in SADC EPA states and supports regional integration.

WTO/DOHA

Ministers underlined the need to conclude the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) as soon as possible. They called upon the Parties to show flexibility and commitment to move the process forward to ensure that the DDA objectives are met.

Peace and Security / AU and NEPAD

Ministers noted the positive developments in the area of peace and security and the growing democratisation of Africa. Ministers exchanged views on the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Security Council on 'Peace and Security in Africa' held on 25 September 2007. Ministers also noted the progress of the African Peer Review Mechanism and, in this context, South Africa informed the Meeting of the status of its own review. South Africa welcomed the continued involvement of the EU and the UN in addressing the peace and security challenges in Africa. The EU reaffirmed its support for the AU, the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the AU's socio-economic programme, NEPAD. It also expressed its appreciation for South Africa's mediation efforts in Africa.

Great Lakes Region

Welcoming the important progress made in the Great Lakes Region, Ministers expressed their continued support to actively cooperate with the new Congolese authorities in consolidation of peace and democracy. Both sides confirmed their commitment to providing support for the reform process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in particular of the security sector, welcoming the initiative of organising a round table conference in Kinshasa in October 2007 to that purpose.

Ministers expressed their concern at the security situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in the Kivus where the presence of foreign and Congolese armed groups continues to threaten the country's stability. They called upon all the parties to find peaceful solutions and abstain from all military action likely to aggravate the situation, particularly at humanitarian level affecting notably women and children. They welcomed MONUC actively supporting the ongoing efforts to that end. Ministers recognized that the relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda are crucial to resolving the crisis in the Kivus and would encourage both governments to continue their cooperation in that respect.

Burundi

Ministers encouraged the political leaders to continue their efforts to find a solution for the political crisis of the recent months. Ministers noted with deep concern the FNL's growing resistance to engage with the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and called on all parties to return to the JVMM process unconditionally which remains the only legitimate way to resolve outstanding issues. Recognizing the important contributions made by the Regional Initiative and in particular by the Republic of South Africa, Ministers stressed the importance of continuous international engagement including in the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

Sudan

In regard to the Sudan, Ministers expressed concern about the continued challenges to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the North and the South, especially the implementation of the Abyei Boundary Commission (ABC) Report.

Ministers welcomed the progress made towards a political settlement of the conflict in Darfur and expressed strong support for the UN and AU Special Envoys. Looking forward to the start of the peace talks on 27 October, Ministers urged all parties to participate constructively in the talks and contribute to an atmosphere conducive to peace, in particular through a cessation of hostilities. Ministers also expressed concern at the ongoing humanitarian situation.

Ministers commended the partnership between the UN and the AU, which made possible the decision to establish the UN-AU Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). They called on the AU, the UN and the Government of Sudan to cooperate to its rapid deployment.

Chad / Central African Republic

The EU informed of the preparations for the possible deployment of an EU military operation to Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic in support of the UN presence there with a view to improving security in those areas and contributing to the protection of refugees and IDPs. In this respect, Ministers welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007) authorising the operation. The Ministers stressed the need for effective co-ordination between the EU Mission and the UN Mission in Chad and the AU-UN Hybrid Force.

Somalia

Ministers stressed the importance of an inclusive political process as the basis for durable peace. In this regard, they urged the Transitional Federal Government to pursue an inclusive political process and urged all stakeholders in Somalia to ensure that the national reconciliation process is successful. Ministers welcomed the commitments made at the National Reconciliation Congress in Mogadishu and the renewed agreement in Djeddah on 16 September. They also welcomed further steps by the Transitional Federal Institutions to reach out to opposition groups that renounce violence. The EU and South Africa commended the role of the AU-mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and agreed that it needs additional troops and funding. Ministers expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Somalia as well as the continued violence and insecurity in parts of the country.

Zimbabwe

Ministers discussed the current situation in Zimbabwe and expressed concerns about the socio-economic and humanitarian situation. Both South Africa and the EU share a commitment to working with the people and government of Zimbabwe to address the challenges of the current socio-economic and humanitarian situation. The EU continued to welcome the SADC initiative and the mandate to President Mbeki to continue to facilitate dialogue between the opposition and the government in Zimbabwe and expressed readiness to respond appropriately to tangible results of this initiative. Ministers welcomed the adoption by the Zimbabwe Parliament of the constitutional amendment and agreed that meaningful internal dialogue in Zimbabwe is crucial to the resolution of the current challenges.

Middle East

Ministers discussed current developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Ministers acknowledged the ongoing meetings between President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as a positive development in the quest for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The Ministers expressed concern over the recent declaration by Israel that described the Gaza Strip as hostile territory and the effect this declaration might have on the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza. The Ministers expressed the hope that the US sponsored Peace Conference scheduled for November 2007 will lead to a framework agreement between Israel and Palestine that would result in the creation of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state, living side-by-side with Israel in peace and security and within internationally recognised borders.

Iran

Ministers expressed their commitment to finding a diplomatic solution to the Iranian crisis, guided by the decisions taken by the IAEA Board of Governors and in line with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. They also recalled the E3+3 Offer of June 2006.

Ministers encouraged all Parties concerned to enter into a dialogue and negotiations in order to seek a comprehensive and sustainable solution. Ministers supported the calls for a

'double time-out' of all enrichment related activities and of sanctions, thereby providing a window of opportunity for the resumption of these negotiations. South Africa encouraged all Parties to refrain from any actions that would hinder the implementation of the understanding reached and the continuation of cooperation between the IAEA and Iran.

Kosovo

Ministers exchanged views on the Kosovo Status process. They considered that status quo was unsustainable and underlined the necessity of rapidly finding a solution to the Kosovo Status issue. A sustainable solution to Kosovo status was key to lasting stability in the Western Balkans. Ministers expressed their support for the efforts by the Troika, comprising representatives by the EU, the US and the Russian Federation, and stressed the importance of Belgrade's and Pristina's full and constructive engagement in the renewed period of negotiations running until 10 December 2007.

Environment and Climate Change

Ministers welcomed the launch of the South African - EC Environment and Sustainable Development Forum and praised the fruitful discussions at the forums first meeting held in Brussels on 1 and 2 October 2007. The meeting provided the opportunity to exchange views on a variety of global environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity and international environment governance. Areas were identified which could be taken into account under the Joint SA-EC Multi-annual Indicative Programme. These include waste management, 'working for wetlands', 'street lightning' and 'clean fires'.

The meeting agreed to exchange information and to explore the possibility to hold a series of workshops for experts in areas such as Sustainable Production and Consumption, waste minimization, biofuels and climate change mitigation scenarios and modelling. With regard to joint cooperation under the CITES convention, South Africa undertook to examine the EU arguments for ratification of the Gaborone amendment to enable the EC to become full member of this Convention.

In terms of Pan-Africa and Regional cooperation it was agreed that we would explore the potential of hosting an EU-Africa Ministerial meeting on environment to be held back to back with the 12th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) to be held in June 2008 in South Africa. Both Parties agreed to hold their next meeting of the SA-EU Environment and Sustainable Development Forum in South Africa prior to the 2008 SA-EU Joint Cooperation Council.

Ministers exchanged views on the outcomes of the High Level Meeting on Climate Change at the UNGA as well as the Major Economies Meeting held in the USA. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to set out a comprehensive process in charge of coordinating the work with a view to agreeing by 2009 to a fair, flexible and inclusive climate change regime beyond 2012. Ministers also reaffirmed the UNFCCC is the appropriate forum for future negotiating future multilateral action on climate change.

Migration

Ministers agreed that migration is a common challenge for Europe and Africa and that collective policy responses must be found at national, regional and global levels, especially to enhance the development benefits of migration and reduce its possible negative political and human rights dimensions. It was further agreed that issues such as resource mobilisation, technology transfer and capacity building should be further discussed and strengthened where needed. In this context, they underlined the need to implement the Africa-EU Joint Declaration on Migration and Development adopted in Tripoli, Libya, in November 2006. Ministers also acknowledged the need for continuing and strengthening, at bilateral level, the dialogue on migration and development, as well as on migration and migration related issues between South Africa and the EU, with the objective of achieving closer cooperation between the Parties in all the areas concerned as outlined in the revised TDCA.

Non proliferation initiative

The EU informed about the upcoming symposium organised at the initiative of the EU SG/HR Solana in the context of the EU WMD Strategy.

The way forward

Ministers agreed that the next Ministerial Troika will take place under the Slovenian Presidency in the first half of 2008 and expressed the wish to hold an SA-EU Summit as soon as possible.

12th ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting

Ouagadougou, 11 October 2007

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The twelfth ministerial Troika meeting between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the European Union (EU) was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 11 October 2007 under the Co-Chairs of His Excellency Mr. Djibrill Yipènè Bassolé, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso and Chairman of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council, and His Excellency Mr. João Gomes Cravinho, Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, representing the current Chairman of the EU.
2. The ECOWAS Troika further included the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, Dr. Charles Y. Brimpong-Yeboah, MP, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Honourable Bagudu Mutle Hirse and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas. Mr. Aougui Niandou, Director of Integration and African Union in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation represented the Republic of Niger. His Excellency Mr. Soumaïla CISSE, President of the UEMOA Commission and His Excellency General Lamine CISSÉ, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa also attended the meeting as observers.

A. PEACE AND SECURITY

Côte d'Ivoire

3. ECOWAS and the EU reviewed the status of the implementation of the Ouagadougou political agreement signed on 4 March 2007 and welcomed the second meeting of the inter-Ivorian political dialogue monitoring committee held in Ouagadougou on 4 September 2007. They also welcomed President Blaise Compaoré's continued engagement for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.
4. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the ongoing preparations for the Presidential elections and hoped that further progress can be made to allow elections to be held under favourable conditions in early 2008. Both parties reiterated the importance of the voter registration and certification exercise and stressed that the quality of the electoral lists is crucial for fair and transparent elections.
5. In view of the upcoming review of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1765, ECOWAS and the EU strongly called on the International Community to support the exercise by respecting its commitments, and to support the process of implementing the Ouagadougou Political Agreement aimed at facilitating the successful completion of the electoral process in Cote d'Ivoire.

Guinea

6. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the determination of the government of Prime Minister Kouyaté to improve conditions in the country and commended the successful holding of the Partner's Forum in Paris in July 2007. Both parties further welcomed the Government's emphasis on national reconciliation, with the creation of a Commission of Enquiry on the political violence that rocked the country during the February crisis, the provision of compensation for victims and the promotion of social dialogue.

7. Following the recent adoption of new electoral laws, both parties underscored the urgent need to appoint members of the Independent National Electoral Commission in view of effectively preparing the upcoming parliamentary elections. The EU and ECOWAS encouraged the Government and all political actors to accelerate the process of organising the elections. They also reiterated their willingness to take part in monitoring the elections. ECOWAS welcomed the arrangements concluded between the EU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to finance the elections. Within the framework of the Art. 96 Consultations of the Cotonou Agreement, the EU renewed its invitation to ECOWAS to take part in the next mission. ECOWAS accepted the invitation.

8. ECOWAS and the EU encouraged the Government of Guinea to continue improving economic governance to redress public finances. In that regard, they called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support this process with a new programme for Guinea. ECOWAS and the EU also encouraged donors to follow up on their promises to support the emergency programme and the 2007- 2010 Poverty Reduction Strategy.

9. Both parties will continue to monitor the security situation in the country and the region at large. ECOWAS and the EU support the reform of the security forces.

Guinea Bissau

10. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the improved political stability in the country since the signing of the stability pact in March 2007 and the increased focus of the Government in implementing its ambitious reform programme. Both parties recognised that this offers a window of opportunity for the international community to support the ongoing reforms. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the conclusions of the third meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea Bissau held in New York on 24 September 2007 and the increased commitment expressed by international partners.

11. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the ongoing preparations for legislative elections to be held in March 2008 and reiterated their readiness to observe them. They stressed that drug trafficking constitutes a threat to sub-regional security and the credibility of Guinea Bissau, and encouraged the Government to strengthen the efforts combat it. They expressed support for the Plan of Action and existing plans to improve the justice and penitentiary systems.

12. Both parties encouraged the Government to finalise and execute the Action plan for the implementation of the National Security Strategy. ECOWAS welcomed the increased EU engagement as regards security sector reform in Guinea Bissau and the plans to launch, in addition to existing support measures, an operation on the civilian and military aspects of the reform, including the fight against narcotics. Both parties welcomed the improvements in public finances that have led to increased cooperation of the World Bank and the IMF. ECOWAS

and the EU will also continue to co-operate both on the ground and within the framework of the International Contact Group on Guinea Bissau. Both parties supported the steps taken by ECOWAS and the International Contact Group on Guinea Bissau (ICG-GB) to include Guinea Bissau in the group of countries to receive the support of the United Nations Peace Building Commission.

Sahel (Situation in Northern Niger/Northern Mali)

13. ECOWAS and the EU expressed concern about the deteriorating security situation in the Northern parts of Mali and Niger. They condemned the kidnappings and the use of land mines, which pose a great risk to the civilian population and constitute obstacle to the security and development of the areas concerned. Both Parties considered that the situation poses a threat to the stability of the region and agreed that ECOWAS and other regional organisations should take it up on their agendas to identify the most appropriate solutions.

14. ECOWAS and the EU reaffirmed their support for the Governments of Niger and Mali and all concerned parties in their efforts to safeguard peace. They hoped that a negotiated solution can be reached in Mali and in Niger on the basis of existing peace agreements, while upholding the unity and territorial integrity of both countries. ECOWAS and the EU emphasised their readiness to support measures to improve the security and the living conditions of the people in the Sahel area.

B. DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION AND ELECTIONS

Nigeria

15. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the determination shown by President Umaru Musa Yar 'Adua and the Government of Nigeria to address the shortcomings of the April elections and deepen democracy, good governance and the rule of law, and lauded the first decisions taken in that direction. The recently appointed committee charged with the revision of the electoral framework in Nigeria is an important step forward, as is the continued swift hearing given by the competent jurisdictions and authorities concerned, to complaints regarding the April 2007 elections.

16. ECOWAS and the EU were encouraged by the commitment of the Nigerian leadership to resolve the situation in the Niger Delta in a spirit of fairness, justice and cooperation and to tackle poverty throughout the country. Both parties welcomed the Nigerian Government's plans to call a conference on the Niger Delta in Abuja in November 2007. They also hailed the substantial contributions of Nigeria to peacekeeping missions in Africa and around the world.

17. The EU restated its readiness to engage further dialogue with ECOWAS and Nigeria to support sustainable development and good governance in the country.

Sierra Leone

18. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the peaceful holding of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone on 11 August and 8 September 2007 and congratulated His Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma on his election as President of Sierra Leone. These elections

were an important step towards the consolidation of peace and democracy in a region that until recently, had suffered from violent conflicts. Both parties congratulated the people of Sierra Leone on an orderly election and the National Electoral Commission, on its capable leadership in their organisation. ECOWAS and EU electoral observation missions on the ground attested that these elections were generally well organised, transparent and peaceful.

19. ECOWAS and the EU will continue to follow closely the post-election situation in the country and expressed hopes that the new Government of Sierra Leone will take necessary and appropriate measures to improve governance and accountability in Sierra Leone. They also looked forward to the implementation of the recommendations of the 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' and urged increased support to the Human Rights Commission.

20. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the work of the UN Peace Building Commission (PBC) in Sierra Leone and looked forward to a coordinated contribution of the UN Peace Building Fund to the country's post-crisis recovery.

Togo

21. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed the preparations for the legislative elections scheduled for 14 October 2007 in Togo and encouraged the Togolese people and authorities to preserve the peaceful atmosphere that has prevailed during the electoral campaign. Electoral observers deployed by both parties report that the electoral process is being conducted in accordance with international standards. The EU praised President Compaoré for his crucial role as a facilitator, and welcomed ECOWAS' contribution to the stability of the electoral process, through its unprecedented deployment of a security observer team in addition to its civilian observer mission.

22. Both parties looked forward to successful elections that will set the basis for true national reconciliation and the peaceful development of Togo and the West Africa region. ECOWAS and the EU adopted a joint political statement on the upcoming legislative elections in Togo.

C. HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

23. The EU informed about the first expert meeting on human rights between the EU and the African Union, held in Brussels on 19 September. At this meeting, the EU and the AU representatives agreed to consult regularly on the human rights matters, consider issues of common interest and explore ways to improve cooperation and promote global issues at multilateral fora. They also shared their priorities for the upcoming session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and discussed how to better involve civil society in their common endeavour to promote human rights.

24. Both parties agreed that the HRC should be a key player in the strengthening, the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world. They shared their assessment of the recent sessions of the HRC, and agreed that this body was now entering a more operational phase after having devoted much of its time and energy to the institution building process during the first year of operation.

25. They expressed the view that the decisions taken on institutional aspects have no doubt equipped the HRC with the tools and methods that will allow it to fulfil its mandate responsibly and effectively. Both parties expressed their commitment to continue to cooperate in the

framework of the HRC in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation.

26. ECOWAS and the EU discussed the ongoing work of the UN Peace Building Commission (PBC) in Sierra Leone and its possible future work in Guinea Bissau. They agreed that the first year of the work of the PBC has been a success and that the PBC is a framework to strengthen cooperation and dialogue in the field of peace-building. They agreed to further consolidate its role within the UN system, inter alia by supporting the PBC in establishing strategic priorities for stabilizing post-conflict countries, ensuring maximum impact in the field, in further enhancing cooperation, coherence and coordination among all relevant actors, in integrating a gender perspective into all its work, in considering lessons learned and in intensifying dialogue with the Security Council, General Assembly and ECOSOC.

27. ECOWAS and the EU are committed to fully and actively contribute to the work of the Commission and to enhance its effective contribution to a peaceful future to post-conflict societies.

D. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION PROCESS AND THE EPA

28. The two parties restated their commitment and determination to conclude a mutually beneficial EPA, capable of contributing to the socio-economic development of the region.

29. Reviewing the status of the EPA negotiations based on the outcomes of the meeting of the West Africa Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) held in Abidjan on 5 October 2007, ECOWAS restated the observation made by the Ministers that the conditions for concluding the negotiations by 31 December 2007 had not been met. Consequently, the West Africa region requested the European Party to submit to the WTO a request to extend the 2001 waiver.

30. The European Union considers that the request for an extension of the 2001 waiver is not consistent with the commitment to treat developing countries equitably under the trade preferences granted by the EU. Furthermore, the extension of the waiver is not compatible with the provisions of the Cotonou Agreement.

31. However, both Parties invited the Chief Negotiators of the two regions to take all necessary measures to expedite the execution of the pre-conditions for concluding the Agreement, namely the joint definition of support programmes, the formulation of market access schedules and the preparation of the text of the Agreement.

E. MIGRATION

32. Both Parties welcomed the report from the second meeting of the ECOWAS-EU Joint Group on Migration. They stressed the value of regular political dialogue on migration and development in identifying areas for practical cooperation and in facilitating coordination between ECOWAS and the EU in this field.

33. The EU welcomed the Common Approach on migration, recently considered by the directors of political affairs and the ECOWAS Parliament. The Common Approach will be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Ministers and the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for adoption. Both Parties agreed that the ECOWAS Common Approach, which addresses the issue of migration in all its dimensions, including its relationship with development, will constitute an important basis to continue and deepen the dialogue in the fields involved.

34. Consequently, both Parties agreed to deepen cooperation in the following areas:

- ▶ Migration and development;
- ▶ Regular migration;
- ▶ Irregular migration;
- ▶ Strengthening operational cooperation in the area of migration;
- ▶ Migration and the Diaspora;
- ▶ Migration and gender.

35. Detailed work programme will be prepared jointly on the basis of these themes, thereby making it possible to associate key actors and partners in each field with the Joint Group.

36. Both Parties underscored the importance of joint and coordinated work with working groups put in place by ECOWAS for its Action Plan. The two parties stressed the importance of regular dialogues between the ECOWAS Commission and the EU Heads of Mission in Abuja.

37. On the status of implementation of the Action Plan of the Rabat Ministerial Conference, as well as the joint programme of action set up in the political declaration of the EU-Africa ministerial conference on migration and development held in Tripoli in November 2006, the two Parties agreed to include it on the agenda of the next meeting. Both parties welcomed the information gathering made by ECOWAS and the EU to implement the Rabat Action Plan, and invited ECOWAS to establish a permanent monitoring mechanism.

38. In this context, the importance of migration as one of the themes of the Common Strategy for the EU-Africa Summit, to be held in Lisbon in December 2007, was underlined.

39. The two Parties agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group should take place in Brussels in May 2008. In that regard, they expressed their wish to hold joint expert meetings on the themes identified above, in line with the work programme to be put in place, in order to better prepare its next meeting in Brussels.

F. DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE EU AND WEST AFRICA

40. In recognition of the need for the two organisations to tackle the drug problem through dialogue at a higher political level, ECOWAS and the EU held a first expert meeting on the issue of drugs in Brussels on 6 September 2007. The drug situations in Europe and in West Africa were discussed, with a particular focus on emerging trends of drug trafficking, especially cocaine from Latin America, through West Africa into Europe. Both parties expressed concern about the risks and the threat that drug trafficking represents for the security of the populations of the two regions, and agreed on the need to take measures to fight the circulation and consumption drugs.

41. Ongoing cooperation as well as areas for future cooperation were also addressed. In that regard, the EU and ECOWAS discussed plans to develop comprehensive strategies to combat the increased illicit trafficking of drugs in West Africa. In that regard, the meeting noted that ECOWAS has already drafted a policy, a strategy and an action plan.

42. The European Commission and the ECOWAS Commission will pursue dialogue in order to evaluate the possible ways to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan. ECOWAS and the EU agreed to continue their dialogue and cooperation in this field, based on the principle of shared responsibility and a multidisciplinary approach.

G. JOINT AFRICA-EU STRATEGY

43. ECOWAS and the EU welcomed progress made in the formulation of a Joint EU-Africa Strategy and a first Plan of Action for the period 2008-2009. In that context, both Institutions commended the initiative taken through the next Ouagadougou Conference and on the theme 'Peace and Security in West Africa: the role of the EC-Africa Joint Strategy', which links region-wide issues like peace and security and the African agenda. ECOWAS and the EU look forward to the holding of the 2nd EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007.

H. OTHER MATTERS

44. The two parties restated the importance of making further progress towards operationalising the ECOWAS-EU-UNOWA Action Framework for peace and security.

Javier Solana – ‘L’approbation du traité européen modifié relancera la politique de sécurité’

Paris, 13 October 2007

(...)

La France va contribuer pour moitié aux effectifs de la force européenne au Tchad et en République centrafricaine (RCA). Cette force ne va-t-elle pas apparaître plus française qu’européenne ?

Il est normal que, dans ce type d’opérations, tous les pays de l’Union européenne ne participent pas de la même façon : certains peuvent envoyer des soldats, d’autres des policiers, d’autres encore des moyens logistiques ou des contributions financières. Il est évident que certains pays ont des forces armées plus disponibles et mieux préparées que d’autres. Les Britanniques, comme les Allemands, ont dit, depuis le début, qu’ils ne seraient pas engagés sur le terrain, mais cela ne veut pas dire qu’ils ne vont pas participer d’une autre manière.

Il s’agit donc d’une répartition des tâches, même si elle n’est pas toujours bien équilibrée.

Cette force européenne ne va-t-elle pas consolider les régimes de N’Djamena et de Bangui ?

Il y a eu à ce sujet des critiques de quelques organisations, et des forces d’opposition dans ces deux pays. L’opération européenne est une opération neutre, dont l’objectif est de protéger des gens qui ont besoin de l’être, et non pas un régime particulier. C’est une opération de nature humanitaire : cela a été bien expliqué aux Nations unies, comme aux présidents tchadien et centrafricain. Ces accusations sont sans fondement. Quant à la force hybride au Darfour, elle est le résultat de plusieurs années de travail. Elle sera robuste, prioritairement africaine, mais avec des composantes non africaines. C’est l’objectif numéro un, parce que le problème numéro un, c’est le Soudan.

Peut-on relancer la politique européenne de sécurité et de défense (PESD) ?

L’approbation du traité européen modifié relancera la PESD ; je pense que nous assisterons à une dynamique forte et nouvelle dans toutes les directions, même s’il ne faut sans doute pas compter sur une forte augmentation des budgets militaires. Une relance de la PESD aura besoin de l’accord de la France et de la Grande-Bretagne, et du soutien d’autres nations, comme l’Allemagne, l’Espagne, et tous ceux qui le souhaitent. La dynamique du traité modifié aidera à donner une impulsion à l’Europe. Or, si nous voulons accomplir quelque chose de significatif, ce n’est pas dans le domaine du marché unique que cela se fera, mais dans celui de la politique étrangère et de sécurité.

Peut-on rapprocher l’Union européenne et l’OTAN ? Faut-il envisager une division du travail entre elles ?

Il y a eu une époque où ces deux organisations n’avaient même pas de relations téléphoniques ! Aujourd’hui, c’est rare qu’il y ait une semaine sans contacts, à tous les niveaux, entre l’UE et l’OTAN. Le changement a été profond, et très positif.

Pouvons-nous aller plus loin ? Sans doute, mais il y a des spécificités qui sont claires : la sécurité collective, c'est l'OTAN. L'Union dispose d'outils plus diversifiés, parce qu'elle peut intervenir sur le plan militaire, mais aussi économique, diplomatique et humanitaire. L'Union européenne va au-delà de cette alliance politico-militaire qu'est l'OTAN. Dans les opérations de gestion des crises, il faut choisir l'organisation la mieux placée en fonction du type d'opération.

Pour le Liban, les Européens et l'ONU sont mieux placés, et pour l'Afghanistan, c'est l'OTAN qui intervient. Je ne crois pas qu'il faille définir strictement à l'avance qui fait quoi. A l'avenir, nous serons de plus en plus confrontés à des opérations associant des moyens civils et militaires, pour lesquels nous avons besoin de moyens de planification. C'est pour cela que nous avons créé une cellule européenne de planification.

Le Monde

Kosovo – Troika Press Statement

Brussels, 14 October 2007

Following the first Troika-facilitated direct talks on the status of Kosovo between Belgrade and Pristina held on 28 September, the second round was held on 14 October 2007. The meeting provided an opportunity for the two sides to continue to develop their respective proposals and engage in discussions on the basis of these presentations.

On October 14, delegations from Belgrade and Pristina continued their direct dialogue under Troika auspices to discuss Kosovo's future status. The Troika facilitated several hours of direct face-to-face talks between the parties. After the direct dialogue, the Troika met separately with each side to discuss possible areas of agreement in the parties' positions.

Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and the Minister for Kosovo Metohija Slobodan Samardzic led the Belgrade delegation. It also included Feodor Starcevic, Branislava Alendar, Aleksandar Simic, Gaso Kenezevic, Thomas Fleiner, Milos Jovanovic, Zoran Soljaga, Valdimir Jovicic, Marko Jaksic and Goran Bogdanovic.

Pristina was represented by the Unity Team led by President Fatmir Sejdiu, Prime Minister Agim Ceku, President of the Assembly Kole Berisha, Hashim Thaci, Veton Surroi, Blerim Shala and Skender Hyseni.

During the face-to-face talks both parties expanded on the discussions in New York on September 28 by presenting their respective proposals on Kosovo's future status to one another in greater detail. Belgrade further described its proposal of autonomy for Kosovo within Serbia. Pristina elaborated its proposal of friendship and cooperation between two independent states and full implementation of minority rights. Both parties asked questions and responded to each other's proposals.

Both parties stated that they would continue to abide by their commitment made in Vienna on August 30 and reaffirmed in New York on September 28 to refrain from any provocative acts or statements that might jeopardize the security and stability of the region or the Troika process.

The Troika, reminding the parties of the Contact Group Ministerial Statement of 27 September, expressed the hope that elections, due in Kosovo on 17 November, would take place with full participation of all communities and against a calm and orderly background.

The Troika intends to be vigorous and proactive in helping the parties reach an agreement on Kosovo's status; in particular, the Troika will work with the parties to identify areas of common perspective that might open a path to a solution. The Troika will next meet with the parties in Vienna on October 22, followed by an intensive schedule of face-to-face meetings in the following weeks.

The Troika reminded both parties that the Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December.

External Relations Council

Luxemburg, 15-16 October 2007

UZBEKISTAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council remains seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and recalls its position to that effect set out in previous Council Conclusions.
2. The Council welcomes the increased willingness of the Uzbek authorities to engage in dialogue with the EU, and the positive developments which have occurred in EU-Uzbek relations in the course of this year: the holding of two rounds of experts' talks on the Andijan events and the first round of a human rights dialogue between the EU and Uzbekistan; the engagement by the Uzbek authorities to continue this dialogue on a regular basis; and the conditional release of the human rights defenders Ms. Niazova and Ms. Turaeva. The Council welcomes the recent abolition of the death penalty in Uzbekistan and the introduction of habeas corpus into Uzbek law, and looks forward to the implementation of these measures.
3. The Council reiterates its desire to pursue a comprehensive dialogue with Uzbekistan in a number of areas. It looks forward to further cooperation on the implementation of the EU Strategy on Central Asia, which should provide a new momentum to EU relations with Uzbekistan. The EU is ready to develop substantial political dialogue and to strengthen cooperation with Uzbekistan in all the areas identified in the Strategy, including human rights, judicial and prison reform, education, trade and economic reform, energy, climate change and water management and security, as well as important international issues.
4. The Council calls on the Uzbek authorities to make further progress in the area of human rights. It urges Uzbekistan to implement fully its international obligations relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as rule of law and, in particular, to allow full unimpeded access by relevant international bodies to prisoners; to engage effectively with the UN Special Rapporteurs to Uzbekistan; to let all NGOs, including Human Rights Watch operate without constraints in Uzbekistan; to release human rights defenders from detention and cease their harassment; to engage positively on human rights issues in the context of the forthcoming EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation Committee. The reform of the judiciary, law enforcement and police law should be pursued. Progress towards these goals will be evaluated on the basis of a report by the Heads of Missions, which will include an assessment of the upcoming Presidential elections.
5. The Council decided to renew for a 12 months period the arms embargo set out in the Common Position 2006/787/CFSP and the visa restrictions for individuals listed in the annex of Common Position 2007/338/CFSP. With a view to encouraging the Uzbek authorities to take positive steps to improve the human rights situation and taking into account their commitments, the Council decided that the visa restrictions would not apply for a period of six months, at which point the Council will review if the Uzbek authorities have made progress towards meeting the conditions mentioned in paragraph 4 of these Conclusions. The Council may decide to apply the visa restrictions earlier if necessary, in light of the actions of the Uzbek authorities in the area of human rights. It also stands ready to lift all restrictive measures once Uzbekistan fulfils the conditions set out in these and previous Council conclusions. The Council stands ready to assist Uzbekistan to fulfil these objectives.'

CHAD/CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC/SUDAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU strongly supports the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) ongoing efforts to solving the conflict in Darfur within a comprehensive and regional approach. Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), which approves the deployment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence and authorizes the EU to provide the military element of it, the EU will conduct a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA) in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, for a period of one year from the date that its initial operational capability is declared. This deployment has been welcomed by both the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic. By addressing the regional dimension of the Darfur crisis, the deployment of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA and a UN police mission, in parallel to UNAMID in Sudan, is a crucial step to facilitate a long lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur.

2. The Council welcomes the designation of Lieutenant General (IE) Patrick Nash as the Operation Commander and Brigadier General (FR) Jean-Philippe Ganascia as the Force Commander. The Operation Headquarters of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA will be located at Mont Valérien (France). The Council underlines its determination to commit the necessary means, in order to allow the Operation Commander to fulfil his mandate with the necessary forces and capabilities.

3. The deployment of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA is a concrete expression of the EU's commitment to actively work for the improvement of the security situation in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic, by contributing to the protection of refugees and IDPs, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping to create the conditions for displaced people to return to their places of origin voluntarily, as well as contributing to ensure MINURCAT's security and freedom to operate. EUFOR TCHAD/RCA will be conducted in consultation with the authorities of the countries concerned. The operation will be conducted with full independence, impartiality and neutrality. The planning of the operation will continue to take place in full coordination with the UN and in consultation with African partners. Potential third states contributors are also being consulted.

4. The establishment of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA forms part of a comprehensive EU effort to reinforce support for refugees and displaced people in Chad and the Central African Republic, including through continuing humanitarian assistance to both countries and the financing of substantial rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the zones of return for displaced persons. In this context, the Council welcomes the Commission's intention to implement transitional programmes of recovery and rehabilitation, covering reconciliation oriented activities, support to the voluntary return of IDPs and to the rehabilitation in their places of origin, and support to local governance. In Chad, the Commission will contribute substantially to the UN programme for the establishment of the UN Police force, which will train and equip Chadian police officers as well as deploy them in the refugee and IDP camps in Eastern Chad.

5. The Council urges all states in the region, in particular Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic, to work to promote regional stability and ensure security along their common borders, and in particular to respect their engagement not to support rebel movements operating from their territory against one of the other countries. Similarly, the EU calls on

Sudan and Chad to intensify efforts to normalise their relations, in accordance with the Tripoli and Riyadh agreements. The EU welcomes the constructive role played by other regional players, including Libya and Saudi Arabia, and urges them to continue. The Council also calls on the states in the region to promote internal peace and reconciliation. In this regard, it welcomes the recent developments concerning the internal political dialogue in Chad and encourages all parties to pursue the democratic process.

6. The Council recalls that sustainable peace in Darfur is only possible once a widely acceptable political settlement for Sudan has been successfully put in place. In order that Sudan be peaceful and remain united, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) will need to be implemented in full. While taking note of the progress achieved so far, the Council notes with concern that the implementation of some provisions of the CPA have repeatedly been delayed and urges the parties to step efforts to accelerate their implementation. In this respect, the Council is deeply concerned about the recent announcement by SPLM to suspend its participation in the Government of National Unity and calls on all parties to re-engage in the implementation of the CPA, which is of fundamental importance for the future of Sudan.

7. The Council expresses its utmost concern at and firmly condemns the increasing levels of violence in Darfur, and in particular the appalling attack on AU Peacekeepers in Haskanita, which was subsequently burned down and looted. The Council demands all parties to stop all violence and commit themselves to an unconditional, effective and verifiable cessation of hostilities as a necessary condition for the political process to succeed. The Council stands ready to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, to ensure humanitarian deliveries and protection of civilians. As regards the killings of AU peacekeepers, the Council calls on the Cease Fire Commission to fully investigate the attack and to hold those responsible to account. This incident also stresses the need for the urgent deployment of the UN support package to AMIS and UNAMID. Expressing its appreciation for all contributions that have been pledged to UNAMID, the Council calls for an acceleration of the ongoing efforts to this end, and in particular urges the Sudanese government to give its full collaboration to the UN and the AU to ensure that UNAMID be deployed as early as possible. The Council reiterates its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs the implementation of the UN support package and the deployment of UNAMID.

8. The Council welcomes the outcome of the High Level meeting on Darfur that took place in New York on 21 September as an expression of the international community's shared commitment to work towards lasting peace in Darfur. It reiterates its support for the mediation under the auspices of the UN and the AU and looks forward to the start of talks on 27 October. The EU confirms its readiness to provide all possible support to the talks, including through contributions to the Trust Fund, and also welcomes the commitments already made by Member States and the Commission. The Council recalls its position that any party failing to constructively engage in the peace process is to be considered as an obstacle to peace and that it will promote appropriate further measures against it, notably in the UN framework, in line with Security Council Resolution 1591.'

*
* *

The Council adopted a joint action on Operation EUFOR TCHAD/RCA.

The operation will cover a period of one year.

Lt General Patrick NASH (Ireland) has been appointed EU Operation Commander. Brigadier General Jean-Philippe GANASCIA has been appointed EU Force Commander.

The EU Operational Headquarters will be located at Mont Valérien (France).

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Council discussed developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the light of the deteriorating security situation in the east of the country, particularly in North Kivu.

On 15 October, the Presidency, in a declaration on behalf of the EU (see document 13949/07) voiced grave concern at the continuing violence and instability there. It called on all the parties involved to cease hostilities immediately in order to prevent any military escalation and avert any further deterioration in the humanitarian situation on the ground.

BURMA/MYANMAR – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU strongly condemns the brutal crackdown on demonstrators in Burma/Myanmar. It recalls its earlier declarations in which it urged the Burmese authorities to exercise restraint in the face of peaceful protests. The EU regrets that these calls have gone unheeded and regrets that arrests have continued over the recent days.

2. The EU demands that the authorities immediately cease all violent repression and intimidation and that they release all those arrested since mid-August, as well as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners.

3. The EU welcomes the UN Security Council Presidential statement of 11 October on Burma/Myanmar. The EU strongly supports the actions by the UN, in particular the good offices mission of UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari. The EU backs further active UN engagement, including by the Security Council. The EU looks forward to a new visit by the Special Envoy in the coming weeks.

4. The EU welcomes the special session of the UN Human Rights Council and the adoption by consensus of a Resolution strongly deploring the continued violent repression and urging the authorities of Burma/Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. The EU also calls upon the government to disclose information about the whereabouts of those arrested since mid-August and to allow international agencies access to them. The EU also calls for a thorough and impartial investigation of the deaths of demonstrators as well as other serious and continuous violations of human rights, and for those liable to be held to account. In this regard, the EU urges the authorities to cooperate fully with UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar, Sergio Pinheiro, including through the urgent facilitation of a visit by him to Burma/Myanmar.

6. In line with the Presidency statement of 25 September and in view of the seriousness of the current situation and in solidarity with the people of Burma/Myanmar, the EU deems it necessary to increase direct pressure on the regime through stronger measures as well as the following additional restrictive measures: an export ban on equipment to the sectors of logs

and timber and mining of metals, minerals, precious and semi precious stones; an import ban of products of the sectors mentioned before; and an investment ban in these sectors. It will therefore adopt a package of measures that do not harm the general population but that target those responsible for the violent crackdown and the overall political stalemate in the country. The EU stands ready to review, amend or reinforce these measures, in the light of developments on the ground and the results of the Good Offices Mission of the United Nations Special Envoy to Burma/Myanmar Mr. Ibrahim Gambari. The Council requests relevant bodies to elaborate further restrictive measures, including a ban on new investments.

7. The EU confirms the continuation of its substantial humanitarian aid programmes aimed at the most vulnerable populations of Burma/Myanmar and Burmese refugees in neighbouring countries. The EU stands ready to increase this assistance, subject to further assessments of the humanitarian situation. In this context, the EU urges the government to keep channels for the delivery of assistance open and calls on the authorities to cooperate with international actors in this regard.

8. The EU welcomes the unanimous condemnation of developments and the efforts by ASEAN and neighbours of Burma/Myanmar to positively influence the Burmese authorities. As the situation requires the sustained engagement of the UN and the support of the international community and all regional actors, the EU encourages all of Burma's neighbours to maintain pressure for a credible and fully participatory reform process.

9. The EU urges the Burmese authorities to recognize that a return to the situation before the recent demonstrations is both unacceptable and unsustainable. Only a genuine process of internal reform and reconciliation with the involvement of the opposition will deliver stability, democracy and prosperity to the country. The EU supports steps towards such an inclusive process leading to democracy, full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

10. The EU again expresses its readiness to assist Burma/Myanmar in its process of transition. The EU regrets that the Burmese government has made this impossible so far. Should this situation improve, the EU stands ready to review the restrictive measures, to engage with Burma in its development and to find new areas of cooperation.

11. The EU is determined to assist the people of Burma/Myanmar further on their path to democracy, security and prosperity.'

IRAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'1. The Council discussed the situation concerning Iran's nuclear programme. The Council reaffirmed its support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The Council gave its full backing to the efforts of the High Representative on behalf of the EU and the international community to encourage Iran to return to talks on long-term arrangements.

2. The Council underlined its continuing commitment to the comprehensive package proposed to Iran in June 2006. This package, among many elements, reaffirmed Iran's right to develop nuclear energy in conformity with its obligations under the NPT and included active support to build new Light Water Power Reactors using state of the art technology. Iran still has the option to re-enter negotiations on that basis, in line with the double track approach.

3. The Council welcomed the agreement between Iran and the IAEA to resolve all questions concerning Iran's past nuclear activities and noted that full and timely implementation by Iran of the IAEA work plan, as interpreted by the Director General's report, would constitute a significant step forward. As stated in the IAEA Director General's report, confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme requires that the Agency be able to provide assurances regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities, through the implementation of the Additional Protocol and required transparency measures. The Council urged Iran to fully implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement, including its subsidiary arrangements, implement the Additional Protocol pending its ratification, and to provide the Agency all information and cooperation requested. Moreover, the Council expressed its hope that the Director General of the IAEA would be able to show, in his report in November, a positive outcome of his efforts in line with the requirements of the work-plan agreed with Iran.

4. The Council regretted that Iran had not complied with the unanimous call of the international community to suspend all enrichment-related activity and had not accepted the offer of negotiation. The Council reaffirmed its support for Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747 and underlined that the Security Council had expressed its intention in Resolutions 1737 and 1747 to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41, Chapter VII of the UN Charter should Iran further fail to suspend its enrichment activities. The Council welcomed the 28 September statement by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and the United States with the support of the High Representative of the European Union. The Council agreed that the EU will consider what additional measures it might take in order to support the UN process and the shared objectives of the international community, and invited the relevant Council bodies to provide timely advice.'

ZIMBABWE

Over lunch, ministers discussed the situation in Zimbabwe, on the basis of a presentation by Minister Luís Amado following his recent visit to Southern Africa. Ministers expressed concern at the deterioration of the situation in both economic and humanitarian terms.

RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'MONTENEGRO

The Council welcomed the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and of the Interim Agreement with Montenegro as an important step on the country's path towards the EU. It looked forward to intensifying cooperation with Montenegro through the comprehensive framework offered by these Agreements and the other mechanisms of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The Council highlighted the importance of Montenegro establishing a sustained and effective track record in implementing these Agreements. It encouraged Montenegro to push ahead with its reform agenda and called on all political forces to unite their efforts to accelerate that

process. It urged Montenegro to intensify its efforts on the priorities set out in the European Partnership. In particular, it stressed the importance of further determined action and sustained progress in strengthening administrative capacity and in the area of rule of law, including the fight against organised crime and corruption, as well as the establishment of an independent and accountable judiciary.

The Council also underlined the importance to adopt, in a timely way and in a spirit of consensus, a Constitution that complies with international standards and the recommendations of the Council of Europe and its Venice Commission.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Council expressed its full support to HR/EUSR Miroslav Lajcak, and his efforts to advance reforms which are essential for Bosnia and Herzegovina to move forward, in particular the police reform. The Council reiterated that agreement on police reform in accordance with the EU's three principles remains the key priority and one of the necessary conditions for further progress towards a Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the European Union.

The Council regretted the fact that not all political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown willingness to come to an agreement on the basis of the three EU principles. The Council noted some recent developments in terms of political engagement and urged the political leaders of the country to show responsibility vis-à-vis the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and their desire to advance towards the EU.

The Council took note of the upcoming PIC meeting on 30 and 31 October 2007 as the next opportunity for international community to take stock of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council reiterated the need for Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet all the four conditions for the conclusion of the negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement as set out in the Council conclusions of 12 December 2005.

The Council reconfirmed its full support to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European perspective. Recalling the European Council conclusions of December 2006, it reaffirmed that the pace of progress on the EU path depends on the country's own merits.

KOSOVO

The Council expressed its full support for the Troika process and for the EU's Representative therein, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger. The Council welcomed the intense pace of activity and the constructive atmosphere of the first rounds of talks. Noting that the Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December, the Council urged both parties to engage in the remaining negotiations with creativity, boldness and in a spirit of compromise and to make every effort to secure a negotiated settlement of the status of Kosovo.'

*
* *

Ministers also met Carla del Ponte, chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), to discuss cooperation with the ICTY.

LIBYA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council expressed its satisfaction for the conclusion of the case of the Bulgarian medical personnel in connection with the HIV-AIDS infection in Benghazi.
2. The Council expressed its sincere appreciation for the efforts taken by all those involved in bringing this case to an end and acknowledged the Libyan authorities' constructive attitude.
3. The Council reiterated its solidarity with the Libyan children victims of the HIV-AIDS infection in Benghazi and confirmed the EU's commitment to provide medical assistance and care for them through the HIV Action Plan and the Benghazi International Fund, on the basis of voluntary contributions.
4. The Council acknowledged the importance of Libya in the Mediterranean region and in Africa, as well as the potential of EU-Libya cooperation in many areas of common interest.
5. The Council agreed that the policy of engagement with Libya which it decided in 2004 should be reinforced with a view to enhancing EU-Libya relations. The objective of this policy of engagement will be to set EU-Libya relations into an appropriate, coherent long-term framework that will take into account the interests of Libya and of the EU and its Member States.
6. The Council agreed that the EU and Libya should as soon as possible open discussions on an EU-Libya framework agreement which will include areas of mutual interest, such as human rights, migration among others, and invites the Commission to present draft negotiating directives to this effect according to the fundamental principles inspiring the foreign policy of the European Union.'

IRAQ – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. Iraq remains a central challenge for the international community. As a major global player, the Council reaffirms the EU's support to a secure, stable, democratic, prosperous and unified Iraq and reiterates its commitment to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.
2. The EU will continue to play a major role in supporting the Iraqi government in its work to bring stability, security and prosperity to all of its citizens, including through practical assistance. The EU is committed to enhancing its political engagement with Iraq and with its neighbours, as well as supporting the UN and other international actors in their efforts.
3. The Council warmly welcomes the unanimous adoption on 10 August 2007 of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1770, renewing and extending the mandate of UNAMI. The Council reaffirms its strong support to the central role of the UN in Iraq. In this connection it congratulates Mr. Staffan de Mistura on his appointment as the Secretary General's Special Representative for Iraq and Head of UNAMI and assures him of EU's support in leading UNAMI's work in Iraq to implement the new mandate. This mandate is of utmost importance for the stabilisation of Iraq. In addition to UNAMI's existing mandate in areas such as political dialogue, national reconciliation, economic reform, human rights and the Rule of Law, UNSCR 1770 adds important new fields: notably to advise, support and assist the Government of Iraq in areas such as facilitating the regional dialogue within the framework of the neighbouring

countries process, implementing the International Compact with Iraq and strengthening donor coordination including with the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI). The EU is actively engaged in many of these areas and will continue to work closely with the UN. However, further improvement of the security situation will be an essential element in the effective implementation of the UNAMI mandate.

4. The Council trusts that, based on its mandate, UNAMI will continue to contribute to engaging all members of the democratic institutions in Iraq to participate actively and responsibly in an inclusive political process. It calls upon relevant Iraqi institutions to advance in the nomination of governorate election officers on the basis of rules that are in conformity with international best practice for a transparent, inclusive, independent and impartial process. Fundamental decisions regarding the achieving of national reconciliation must be taken in a spirit of sincere dialogue and consensus-building if they are to serve as the basis for a peaceful and prosperous future for Iraq.

5. The Council welcomes the support by the participants at the High Level Meeting on Iraq in New York, on 22 September, for a broader UN role and for the International Compact with Iraq.

6. The Council strongly encourages the Government of Iraq together with all parties to make substantial political progress on the promotion of national reconciliation, which is the key to sustained improvements in security, and to curb the deterioration of the humanitarian conditions in Iraq which has resulted in an estimated 2.2 million internally displaced persons. The Council recognises the heavy burden borne by neighbouring countries, particularly Jordan and Syria, urges the Iraqi Government to undertake appropriate measures to assist Iraqi refugees and those displaced within the country and assures that the EU will continue to play its part. Rapid humanitarian action is required by the international community and the Iraqi Government if the evolving humanitarian crisis is to be contained. The EU recalls the important role of UNHCR, ICRC, IOM, supported by Member States and Community instruments (including ECHO), as well as the need for strong support to the UN/OCHA Strategic Framework for Humanitarian Action in Iraq.

7. The Council calls upon the Iraqi authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the civilian population. In this respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Iraqis, including women and persons belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, should be protected and promoted. The EU stands ready to continue its support to the Iraqi authorities in the fields of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

8. The Council welcomes the Ministerial Conference of Iraq's Neighbouring Countries to be held in Istanbul in early November. The Council underlines that the dialogue and cooperation between Iraq and its neighbours is crucial to achieve the stabilisation of the region and a peaceful and prosperous future for Iraq. It encourages Iraq and its neighbours to build on the progress made by the working groups on energy, refugees and security. The European Union reiterates its offer to assist and provide expertise in this process. In this connection it welcomes the proposal by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the meeting on Iraq in New York on 22 September 2007 to create a support mechanism based in Baghdad to enhance regional dialogue. In the regional process as well as in bilateral relations, the EU encourages all neighbouring countries to play a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability in Iraq.

9. The Council reiterates its strong support to the International Compact with Iraq. It believes that the implementation of the ambitious programme set out in the Compact with Iraq demands strong Iraqi leadership and ownership and requires inclusiveness of the Compact process, broad involvement of the international community and active participation of Iraq's neighbours and partners in the region. Efficient co-ordination of donor efforts is of utmost importance. The Council reaffirms EU's readiness to continue developing a close cooperation and partnership with Iraq – also through the IRFFI – in accordance with the priorities indicated in the International Compact and Iraq's National Development Strategy.

10. The Council looks forward to work on this agenda being taken forward with renewed energy and vigour and to further discussions.

11. The Council strongly condemns the attack on 3 October on the Polish ambassador to Iraq, Edward Pietrzyk, which killed at least two people and seriously wounded the ambassador, who is representing the EU Presidency in Iraq.'

MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Peace Process – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council warmly welcomes the present opportunity for progress on Israel-Palestinian peace. It commends the efforts of Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and encourages them to take courageous steps in their political dialogue. This dialogue must achieve concrete results, leading to meaningful final status negotiations and to their shared goal of a two-state solution with the establishment of a independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours.

2. The Council expresses its full support to the upcoming international meeting as set out in the Quartet statement of 23 September 2007. The Council expects this meeting to provide support to the parties in their bilateral discussions and negotiations in order to move forward urgently on a successful path to a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that will unite all Palestinians. It is a crucial opportunity for regional and international partners to effectively support a comprehensive Middle East Peace Process. It emphasizes the leading role of the Quartet in the preparation of the meeting and the implementation of its conclusions. Broad and constructive involvement by Arab States will be crucial. In this context, the EU supports the action taken forward on the Arab Peace Initiative. The Council invites the EU High Representative in full association with the Commission to examine, and where necessary, re-focus EU activities with a view to developing an EU action plan in order to further support the parties in their ongoing negotiations and the subsequent implementation period.

3. In order to consolidate the progress achieved so far and to fulfil the potential of the current process, the Council calls upon the parties to desist from any actions that threaten the viability of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, in conformity with international law. Progress in negotiations, enhanced cooperation on the ground and building Palestinian institutions should be concurrent and mutually-reinforcing processes and lead to improvements in the day to day life of the Palestinian population. The EU urges the parties to take additional

steps to meet previous commitments, including those under the Road Map and the Agreement on Movement and Access.

4. The Council reiterates its full support to President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad. The Council endorses the extension of the Temporary International Mechanism until December 31, 2007 and stands ready to maintain its high levels of economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians and stresses that for this assistance to be effective in promoting economic development, it should accompany a credible political process. The EU reiterates the Quartet's call upon all countries able to do so to urgently provide financial support to the Palestinian Authority and undertakes to work with partners to facilitate the transition to direct international assistance as soon as possible. The Council underlines the importance of the donors' meeting in December and welcomes the offer of France to host it.

5. The Council supports the work of Quartet Representative Tony Blair in developing with the Palestinian Authority government a multi-year agenda to strengthen institutions, help to create a climate of law and order and promote economic development, and looks forward to his next progress report.

6. The re-engagement and expansion of EUPOL COPPS is an important element in the improvement of security. To this end the Council expects Israel to provide accreditation to the mission without further delay.

7. The Council reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza. It underlines the importance of uninterrupted emergency and humanitarian assistance without obstruction and calls for the continued provision of essential services. The Council reiterates its call on all parties to work urgently for the opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza for both humanitarian reasons and commercial flows. This is essential to ensure the viability of the Palestinian economy and to improve living conditions for the Palestinian people.'

Lebanon – Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'1. The Council condemns in the strongest terms the car bomb attack perpetrated on 19 September in Beirut, which claimed the life of six people including Member of Parliament Antoine Ghanem. The Council welcomes the Security Council's decision to allow the UNIIC to assist the Lebanese authorities in investigating Ghanem's case.

2. The Council underlines that this further destabilisation attempt on the eve of Presidential election s should not be allowed to weaken the Lebanese people's resolve to take a firm stand against violence. It urges all Lebanese parties and all actors in the region to refrain from any activities that would further endanger the political stability of Lebanon.

3. The Council is following closely the electoral process in Lebanon and has taken note that the Parliamentary session to elect a new President of the Republic has been adjourned to October 23. The Council calls for the holding of free and fair presidential elections, without foreign interference and in conformity with the deadline set by the Constitution. The Council hopes that in the forthcoming weeks the Lebanese parties will reach a solution through dialogue and in a spirit of consensus and in full respect of the Lebanese democratic institutions and constitutional norms, thus breaking the political deadlock in the country.

4. The Council welcomes the end of the crisis caused by extremist militants entrenched in Nahr el Bared Palestinian refugee camp and reiterates its full support to the Lebanese

Government and Armed Forces. The Council also welcomes the formal commitment of the Lebanese Government to rebuild the camp and, in this context, stresses the importance of the conference chaired by Prime Minister Siniora on September 10th on the launching of the relief, recovery and reconstruction project of the camp, underlines its readiness to support those efforts and encourages the continuation of the work of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee. The Council recalls the EU's long-standing support to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

5. The Council recalls previous statements and remains determined to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence, according notably to UNSC Resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701 and 1757. The EU commends the prolongation of the UNIFIL which took place last August and in which EU Members States are major contributors. The EU furthermore welcomes the preparatory work for the Special International Tribunal.'

(...)

EUFOR Tchad/RCA – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 15 October 2007

COUNCIL 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, the third subparagraph of Article 25 and Article 28(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In its Resolution 1706 (2006) concerning the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reaffirmed its concern that the ongoing violence in Darfur might further negatively affect the rest of the Sudan as well as the region, in particular Chad and the Central African Republic, and stressed that regional security aspects must be addressed to achieve long lasting peace in Darfur. In its Resolution 1769 (2007), which authorised the establishment of an African Union/United Nations (AU/UN) Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the UNSC expressed its readiness to support proposals by the UN General Secretary relating to a possible multidimensional UN presence in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic with a view to improving security of civilians in these regions.
- (2) In its conclusions of 23 July 2007, the Council reiterated its commitment to continue to support the efforts of the AU and the UN to resolve the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan both in regard to the political process aimed at reaching a comprehensive and sustainable settlement between the concerned parties in the conflict and in regard to the AU/UN peacekeeping efforts through the deployment of an AU/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur. It underlined its support for ongoing efforts to facilitate humanitarian activities in Darfur and its readiness to consider further measures, notably within the UN framework, to ensure humanitarian deliveries and protection of civilians.
- (3) The Council further emphasised the regional dimension of the Darfur crisis and the urgent need to address the destabilising impact of the crisis on the humanitarian and security situation in neighbouring countries, and reiterated its support for the deployment of a multidimensional UN presence in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic and indicated its willingness to consider a EU military bridging operation in support of such a multidimensional UN presence with a view to improving security in those areas.
- (4) In his report of 10 August 2007, the UN Secretary General proposed the deployment of a multidimensional presence, including a possible EU military component, in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic, *inter alia*, aimed at improving the security of refugees and internally displaced persons, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and creating favourable conditions for reconstruction and development efforts in these regions.
- (5) On 27 August 2007, the President of the UNSC made a statement on behalf of the Security Council, welcoming the UN Secretary General's proposals on a multidimensional presence in the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic, including a possible EU military deployment.
- (6) On 12 September 2007, the Council approved a general concept for a possible EU military operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic.

- (7) The Secretary General/High Representative (SG/HR) informed the UN Secretary General of the Decision taken by the Council in a letter of 17 September 2007.
- (8) The authorities of Chad and the Central African Republic have welcomed a possible EU military presence in their respective countries.
- (9) United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1778 (2007) of 25 September 2007 approved the establishment of a UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and authorised the EU to deploy forces in these countries for a period of 12 months from the declaration of Initial Operating Capability. Further it provided for an evaluation of needs within six months from that date by the EU and the UN in view of follow on arrangements, including a possible UN operation.
- (10) According to Joint Action 2007/108/CFSP⁽¹⁾, the policy objectives for the mandate of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for Sudan take into due account regional ramifications of the conflict in Darfur for the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic. The EUSR for Sudan should therefore be mandated to provide political guidance to the EU Force Commander, *inter alia*, in order to ensure overall coherence with the EU's actions towards Sudan/Darfur.
- (11) The Political and Security Committee (PSC) should exercise political control of the EU military operation in the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic, provide it with strategic direction and take the relevant decisions in accordance with third subparagraph of Article 25 of the EU Treaty.
- (12) In accordance with Article 28(3) of the EU Treaty, the operational expenditure arising from this Joint Action, having military or defence implications, should be charged to the Member States in accordance with Council Decision 2007/384/CFSP of 14 May 2007 establishing a mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications⁽²⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'ATHENA').
- (13) Article 14(1) of the EU Treaty calls for the indication in Joint Actions of the means to be made available to the European Union. The financial reference amount for a 12-month period for the common costs of the EU military operation constitutes the best current estimate and is without prejudice to the final figures that are to be included in a budget to be approved in accordance with the rules laid down in ATHENA.
- (14) In accordance with Article 6 of the Protocol on the position of Denmark annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark does not participate in the elaboration and implementation of decisions and actions of the European Union which have defence implications. Denmark does not participate in the implementation of this Joint Action and therefore does not participate in the financing of the operation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Mission

1. The European Union shall conduct a military bridging operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic, named EUFOR Tchad/RCA, in accordance with the mandate set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1778 (2007).

(1) OJ L 46, 16.2.2007, p. 63.

(2) OJ L 152, 13.6.2007, p. 14.

2. The forces deployed to that effect shall operate in accordance with the political and strategic objectives approved by the Council on 12 September 2007.

Article 2

Appointment of the EU Operation Commander

Lieutenant General Patrick NASH is hereby appointed EU Operation Commander.

Article 3

Designation of the EU Operational Headquarters

The EU Operational Headquarters shall be located at Mont Valérien.

Article 4

Appointment of the EU Force Commander

Brigadier General Jean-Philippe GANASCIA is hereby appointed EU Force Commander.

Article 5

Planning and launching of the operation

The Decision on the launching of the EU military operation shall be adopted by the Council following the approval of the Operation Plan and the Rules of Engagement.

Article 6

Political control and strategic direction

1. Under the responsibility of the Council, the PSC shall exercise the political control and strategic direction of the EU military operation. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions in accordance with Article 25 of the EU Treaty. This authorisation shall include the powers to amend the planning documents, including the Operation Plan, the Chain of Command and the Rules of Engagement. It shall also include the powers to take further decisions on the appointment of the EU Operation Commander and/or EU Force Commander. The powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the EU military operation 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 reports from the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC) regarding the conduct of the EU military operation, at regular intervals. The PSC may invite the EU Operation Commander and/or EU Force Commander to its meetings, as appropriate.

Article 7

Military direction

1. The EU Military Committee (EUMC) shall monitor the proper execution of the EU military operation conducted under the responsibility of the EU Operation Commander.

2. The EUMC shall receive reports from the EU Operation Commander at regular intervals. It may invite the EU Operation Commander and/or EU Force Commander to its meetings as necessary.

3. The CEUMC shall act as the primary point of contact with the EU Operation Commander.

Article 8

Coherence of EU response

1. The Presidency, the SG/HR, the EUSR, the EU Operation Commander and the EU Force Commander respectively shall ensure close coordination of their respective activities with respect to the implementation of this Joint Action.
2. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the EU Force Commander shall consult and take into account political guidance from the EUSR in particular on issues with a regional political dimension, except when decisions have to be taken urgently or when operational security is paramount.

Article 9

Relations with the United Nations, the Republic of Chad, the Central African Republic and other actors

1. The SG/HR, assisted by the EUSR, shall, in close coordination with the Presidency, act as a primary point of contact with the United Nations, the Chadian authorities, the authorities of the Central African Republic and neighbouring countries, as well as with other relevant actors.
2. The EU Operation Commander shall, in close coordination with the SG/HR, liaise with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the United Nations on issues relevant to his mission.
3. The EU Force Commander shall, on issues relevant to his mission, maintain close contacts with MINURCAT and local authorities, as well as with other international actors, as appropriate.
4. Without prejudice to Article 12 of ATHENA, the SG/HR and the EU Commanders shall enter into the necessary arrangements with the United Nations regarding the modalities for mutual assistance and cooperation.

Article 10

Participation of third States

1. Without prejudice to the decision-making autonomy of the European Union and to the single institutional framework, and in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the European Council, third States may be invited to participate in the operation.
2. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to invite third States to offer a contribution and to take, upon the recommendation of the EU Operation Commander and the EUMC, the relevant decisions on acceptance of the proposed contributions.
3. Detailed modalities regarding the participation of third States shall be the subject of agreements to be concluded in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the EU Treaty. The SG/HR, assisting the Presidency, may negotiate such agreements on its behalf. Where the EU and a third State have concluded an agreement establishing a framework for the latter's participation in the EU crisis management operations, the provisions of such an agreement shall apply in the context of this operation.
4. Third States making significant military contributions to the EU military operation shall have the same rights and obligations in terms of day-to-day management of the operation as EU Member States taking part in the operation.
5. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take relevant decisions on the setting-up of a Committee of Contributors, should third States provide significant military contributions.

Article 11

Community action

1. The Council and the Commission shall ensure, each in accordance with its respective powers, consistency between the implementation of this Joint Action and external activities of the Community, in accordance with Article 3 of the EU Treaty. The Council and the Commission shall cooperate to this end.
2. Arrangements for the coordination of the EU's activities in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic shall be established as appropriate on the ground as well as in Brussels.

Article 12

Status of the EU-led forces

The status of the EU-led forces and their personnel, including the privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the fulfilment and smooth functioning of their mission, shall be agreed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the EU Treaty. The SG/HR, who shall assist the Presidency, may negotiate such arrangements on its behalf.

Article 13

Financial arrangements

1. The common costs of the EU military operation shall be administered by ATHENA.
2. The financial reference amount for the common costs of the EU military operation shall be EUR 99 200 000. The percentage of the reference amount referred to in Article 33(3) of ATHENA shall be 50 %.

Article 14

Release of information to United Nations and other third parties

1. The SG/HR is hereby authorised to release to the United Nations and to other third parties, associated with this Joint Action, EU classified information and documents generated for the purposes of the EU military operation up to the level of classification relevant respectively for each of them and in accordance with the Council Security Regulations.
2. The SG/HR is hereby authorised to release to the United Nations and to other third parties, associated with this Joint Action, EU non-classified documents related to the deliberations of the Council with regard to the operation, covered by the obligation of professional secrecy pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Council Rules of Procedure⁽¹⁾.

Article 15

Entry into force and termination

1. This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.
2. The EU military operation shall end no later than 12 months after having reached Initial Operating Capability. The EU force shall begin recovery at the end of the EU military operation. During the period of recovery, the EU force may continue to perform the tasks entrusted to it in accordance with UNSCR 1778 (2007), within the limits of its residual capabilities; in particular,

(1) Council Decision 2004/338/EC, Euratom of 22 March 2004 adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure (OJ L 106, 15.4.2004, p. 22). Decision as last amended by Decision 2006/34/EC, Euratom (OJ L 22, 26.1.2006, p. 32).

the chain of command for the EU military operation shall continue to apply.

3. This Joint Action shall be repealed following the recovery of the EU force, in accordance with approved termination planning of the EU military operation, and without prejudice to the relevant provisions of ATHENA.

Article 16

Publication

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

Done at Luxembourg, 15 October 2007.

For the Council

The President

L. Amado

BACKGROUND – EU MILITARY OPERATION IN EASTERN CHAD AND NORTH EASTERN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA)

On 15 October 2007, the Council adopted a joint action on operation EUFOR TCHAD/RCA. Below are some features of this future operation.

The EU has decided to conduct a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA) in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

In deciding to conduct this operations the EU is stepping up its longstanding action in support of efforts to tackle the crisis in Darfur as part of a regional approach to that crisis.

This operation will be conducted with the agreement of the Chadian and Central African governments.

In its resolution 1778 (2007) of 25 September 2007, the UN Security Council approved the establishment of a UN Mission in Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT) and authorised the EU to deploy forces in these countries for a period of 12 months from the declaration of Initial Operating Capability.

EUFOR TCHAD/RCA will be an interim operation designed to support 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 will have 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.

The operation will cover a period of one year.

Lt General Patrick NASH (Ireland) has been appointed EU Operation Commander. Brigadier General Jean-Philippe GANASCIA has been appointed EU Force Commander.

The EU Operational Headquarters will be located at Mont Valérien (France).

The EU military operation will have an appropriate mandate allowing the use of armed force if necessary. It will be independent, impartial and neutral.

The financial reference amount for the common costs of the military operation will be EUR 99.2 million.

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

- ▶ increased support for African Union (AU) and UN efforts to revitalise the political process with a view to finding a lasting solution;
- ▶ speeding up establishment of the hybrid AU-UN operation in Darfur. Until then, support for the AU Mission in Sudan/Darfur (AMIS);
- ▶ increased mobilisation to finance humanitarian aid, but also to secure humanitarian access.

In this regard, the European Commission will contribute more than EUR 50 million to this joint UN-EU initiative in Eastern Chad and the North East of the Central African Republic. The Commission will support, with up to EUR 10 million from the Instrument for Stability, the UN police mission which will have the task of assisting in maintaining law and order in refugee camps and surrounding concentrations of internally displaced persons near the Darfur border.

The EC will also finance substantial rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the zones of return for the displaced persons with EUR 13 million in 2008 from the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) for development actions such as reconstruction, mediation and administrative capacity building that are necessary to improve security in the areas covered by the UN-EU mission, which will be extended through fresh funding under the 10th EDF (2008-2013). Humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable people affected by the ongoing crisis in Chad will continue in 2008 at its current level (i.e. in 2007 over EUR 30 million in Chad and EUR 4 million in CAR, covering the north of the country).

Javier Solana – ‘Pour un nouveau partenariat entre l’Union européenne et l’Asie centrale’

Brussels, 17 October 2007

En un an, l’Union européenne a renouvelé son regard sur l’Asie centrale et les cinq pays qui la composent. Notre engagement était ancien, puisque dès l’émergence de ces derniers sur la scène internationale, il y a 16 ans, plusieurs pays européens ont engagé un dialogue permanent avec eux. La Commission européenne a lancé plusieurs programmes substantiels dans des domaines essentiels pour la région : énergie, transports, sécurité, lutte contre la pauvreté. Mais ces initiatives, bien accueillies et menées dans la longue durée, étaient encore des premiers pas, qu’il fallait replacer dans une approche commune.

C’est maintenant chose faite avec l’adoption le 23 juin par le Conseil européen, c’est-à-dire par les 27 chefs d’Etat et de gouvernement, d’une « Stratégie de l’Union européenne pour l’Asie centrale ».

La Stratégie identifie les trois grands domaines d’un partenariat à long terme – sécurité, stabilité et développement – qui correspondent aux intérêts communs de l’Union européenne et de l’Asie centrale. Un important travail de consultation avec les autorités des cinq pays de la région a permis d’identifier cinq axes de coopération : droits de l’homme, Etat de droit, bonne gouvernance et démocratisation ; investissement pour l’avenir dans la jeunesse et l’éducation ; promotion du développement économique, du commerce et de l’investissement ; renforcement des liens énergétiques et des transports ; environnement et eau ; lutte contre les menaces et les défis communs. Consciente de la spécificité de chaque pays d’Asie centrale, légitimement soucieux d’affirmer son indépendance, l’Union a prévu de consacrer les trois quarts de ses projets à la coopération bilatérale. Le reste ira à des opérations régionales pour lesquelles un travail collectif est indispensable : lutte contre les trafics, transports, et environnement, en particulier.

Ma présente visite dans la région s’inscrit dans cette stratégie. Elle a pour objectif de consolider le partenariat dans lequel nous nous engageons en développant un dialogue politique à haut niveau sur la situation en Asie centrale et sur les réponses conjointes face aux menaces globales (terrorisme, extrémisme, prolifération des armes de destruction massive, trafic de drogue, d’armes et de personnes), afin de consolider la sécurité, la stabilité et le développement de la région. Nous comprenons pleinement le souhait des pays d’Asie centrale de mener une politique « multivectorielle », chacun à leur façon. Par des consultations régulières à tous les niveaux, l’Union européenne peut contribuer à l’émergence des pays d’Asie centrale. Dans le même temps, elle est prête à participer à l’élaboration de positions communes et de coopérations régionales équilibrées.

Nous devons en particulier faire régulièrement le point sur l’évolution des pays voisins du Sud, l’Afghanistan et l’Iran.

Quand nous abordons la question de l’Etat de droit, je sais que ce sujet suscite ici où là des interrogations. Soyons clairs : l’Union européenne ne se pose pas en donneuse de leçons, elle n’a pas d’agenda caché, et elle sait que la démocratie est toujours à construire, en tenant compte des conditions propres à chaque peuple. Elle part seulement d’une évidence historique : une longue relation d’échange a stimulé les rencontres entre l’Asie centrale et l’Europe et a installé le sentiment d’une familiarité culturelle. En outre, dès leur accession à l’indépendance, les pays de l’Asie centrale ont fait partie de l’Organisation pour la Sécurité et la Coopération en Europe : nous

partageons donc les mêmes engagements et les mêmes valeurs.

L'Union européenne est donc convaincue qu'en se fondant sur la démocratie et les droits de l'homme, garants de la paix sur le continent, l'Asie centrale confirme son rôle de pôle de stabilité. Il est clair en effet que le renforcement progressif des institutions des pays d'Asie centrale est la meilleure garantie d'un développement économique et social durable. Ce lien fondamental entre règle de droit et performance économique, souligné dans le rapport de la Banque Mondiale de 1997, qui a fait date, est particulièrement pertinent pour la région.

Par ce partenariat renouvelé, l'Union européenne offre aux cinq pays d'Asie centrale de nouvelles options, une plus grande liberté de choix et d'action et, en fin de compte, une insertion plus dynamique dans le processus de globalisation.

EU Council Website

Kosovo – Troika Press Statements

Vienna, 22 October 2007

Under Troika auspices delegations from Belgrade and Pristina continued their direct dialogue in Vienna on October 22 to discuss Kosovo's future status.

Pristina was represented by the Unity Team led by President Fatmir Sejdiu, Prime Minister Agim Ceku, President of the Assembly Kole Berisha, Hashim Thaci, Veton Surroi, Blerim Shala and Skender Hyseni.

Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and the Minister for Kosovo Metohija Slobodan Samardzic led the Belgrade delegation. It also included Feodor Starcevic, Branislava Alendar, Aleksandar Simic, Gaso Kenezevic, Thomas Fleiner, Milos Jovanovic, Ivana Radic, Zoran Soljaga, Valdimir Jovicic, Marko Jaksic and Goran Bogdanovic.

As part of its intention to be vigorous and proactive in the search for a solution, the Troika submitted to the parties points for discussion with a view to identifying areas of agreement that might open a path to a negotiated solution. The Troika listened to and faithfully recorded the parties' responses to each of the points. The exchange represents a part of the ongoing Troika discussion with the parties.

The Troika first met separately with each side to further discuss possible areas of agreement in the parties' positions. The Troika then facilitated several hours of direct face-to-face talks between the parties further discussing final status and possible areas of agreement between the parties.

Both parties stated that they would continue to abide by their commitment made to refrain from any provocative acts or statements that might jeopardize the security and stability of the region or the Troika process. The Troika repeated the statement it made in Brussels on October 14, reminding the parties of the Contact Group Ministerial Statement of 27 September, and expressed the hope that elections, due in Kosovo on 17 November, would take place with full participation of all communities and against a calm and orderly background.

The Troika will next meet with the parties in Vienna on November 5.

The Troika reminded both parties that the Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December.

Vienna, 5 November 2007

The U.S./EU/Russia negotiating Troika met in Vienna on November 5 with leaders of Kosovo and Serbia to discuss Kosovo's future status. The Belgrade delegation was led by President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and included inter alia Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic. The Pristina delegation was led by President Fatmir Sejdiu and included Prime Minister Agim Ceku, President of the Assembly Kole Berisha, Hashim Thaci, Veton Surroi, Blerim Shala and Skender Hyseni. The Troika appreciated that both sides were represented at the highest level.

The Troika facilitated several hours of direct dialogue between the parties and also met separately with each side to explore further the parties' positions. Working within the parameters of UNSC Resolution 1244 and the Contact Group's Guiding Principles, the Troika continues to work for a negotiated settlement between the parties.

As part of the Troika's effort to leave no stone unturned in the search for an agreement, the Troika submitted to the parties last month its Principal Conclusions, the so-called 14 points. The Troika will continue to explore on this basis various options with the parties.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from making acts or statements that could undermine the security situation.

The Troika reminded both parties that the Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December 2007. The Troika reaffirmed its commitment to make a vigorous and proactive effort to reach an agreement between the parties.

The Troika will next meet with the parties in Brussels on November 20.

20th EU-Russia Summit

Mafra, 26 October 2007

The twentieth EU-Russia Summit took place today in Mafra. It was a friendly and open meeting during which the leaders welcomed the ongoing work on the practical implementation of the Road Maps for the Four Common Spaces and discussed future perspectives for our relations.

Notwithstanding all the progress achieved in EU-Russia relations in the last ten years (the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement has been in force since 1997) it is clear for both Parties that further deepening of our strategic partnership would be mutually beneficial.

The EU noted that this was the first Summit taking place after agreement on the Reform Treaty was reached in the Intergovernmental Conference that recently took place in Lisbon.

In the Common Economic Space, the EU and Russia noted the wide range of areas where progress has been made and the areas where greater efforts are needed. In particular, they stressed the importance of the investment dialogue and of the energy early warning mechanism for strengthening mutual cooperation and increasing understanding between both Parties.

The EU encouraged Russia to undertake the necessary steps to solve the remaining obstacles to WTO accession.

The EU stressed the importance of climate change and the need to give continuity to cooperation in this area.

In the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice, the leaders welcomed the entry into force of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements and underlined the importance of their full implementation. In this regard, they also welcomed the recent start of the visa dialogue. The Permanent Partnership Council on Justice and Home Affairs, in November, will be an occasion for further discussion of the issues covered by this Common Space.

The EU also noted the results of the sixth round of EU-Russia Human Rights consultations, held in Brussels on 3 October, and looked forward to further regular rounds of consultations in the future.

In the Common Space on External Security, the leaders stressed the cooperation in the common neighbourhood. They reiterated the importance both the EU and the Russian Federation attach to effective multilateralism.

The leaders took note of progress in the Common Space on Research, Education and Culture, and welcomed in particular the holding of the first Permanent Partnership Council on Culture on the eve the Summit.

They also discussed a wide range of international issues of strategic importance: the situation in Burma, Kosovo, Iran, Afghanistan and the Middle East Peace Process.

The leaders witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Monitoring Centre of Drugs and Drugs Addiction and Russia as well as the signing of an Agreement on Trade in certain Steel Products.

The leaders noted the outcome of the Industrialists' Round Table held on the eve of the summit.

* * *

The EU was represented by Mr. José SÓCRATES, Prime Minister of Portugal, in his capacity as President of the European Council, and the President of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel BARROSO. The President of the European Council was assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative, Dr. Javier SOLANA, and accompanied by the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Mr. Luís AMADO, and the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Mr. Manuel LOBO ANTUNES. The President of the European Commission was accompanied by Mrs. Benita FERRERO-WALDNER, Commissioner for External Relations, and Mr. Peter MANDELSON, Commissioner for Trade.

The Russian Federation was represented by Mr. Vladimir PUTIN, President of the Russian Federation, accompanied by Mr. Sergey LAVROV, Foreign Minister, Mrs. Elvira NABIULLINA, Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Mr. Sergey YASTRZHEMBSKIY, Special Representative for development of relations with the European Union.

9th Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

Lisbon, 5-6 November 2007

AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 9TH EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership met on 5 and 6 November 2007 in Lisbon, under the Presidency of H.E. Luis Amado, Foreign Minister of Portugal. This meeting offered an appropriate opportunity to assess the progress made during 2007 in implementing the Tampere programme which is derived from the 5-year Work Programme adopted in Barcelona in 2005, and to agree on the priorities for next year.

Ministers reaffirm their commitment to pursue their efforts to realise the Barcelona Declaration objectives: to establish a common area of peace and stability, to create an area of shared prosperity and to develop a partnership in social, cultural and human affairs.

Ministers are pleased to note that 12 years after its creation, the Barcelona Process has led to an enhanced dialogue and cooperation in a wide range of fields of common interest for the Euro-Mediterranean partners. Notwithstanding the positive results achieved to date, Ministers acknowledge that new developments should be taken into consideration to consolidate the Barcelona Process in the future. Ministers emphasise the important role that the Barcelona Process can play in addressing common challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as: economic and social development, climate change and energy, civil protection, migration, and countering terrorism and extremism.

Ministers also emphasise that while the Barcelona Process could be enriched by other initiatives aiming at strengthening the political, economic and cultural ties between the Euro-Med countries, they underline the strong attachment of all partners to the Barcelona Process and reiterate its centrality for the EU relations with Mediterranean countries.

Ministers reaffirm their commitment to maintain the comprehensive approach implemented since the inception of the Barcelona Process to achieve the objectives of the Euro-Med partnership. They welcome the fact that despite the prevailing tension in the Middle East, the Euro-Med partners have succeeded to maintain a constructive dialogue covering key issues such as efforts contributing to achieve further progress in the MEPP, partnership building measures and joint Euromed sectorial projects aiming at promoting a peaceful, stable and secure Euro-Med region, sustainable development, promoting and supporting reform based on a common commitment to shared principles, strengthening rule of law, democracy, political pluralism, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and association, the role of civil society as well as strengthening the role of women in society. This systematic and structured dialogue and cooperation has enabled the partners to develop a better understanding of each other based on a common commitment to shared principles, promoting respect for all religions, cultures and beliefs.

Ministers welcome the progress on the ongoing work regarding the improvement of working methods aiming at enhancing co-ownership, increasing efficiency and ensuring visibility of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Ministers reiterate their support to ongoing negotiations to establish a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area in accordance with the provisions of the Barcelona Declaration

and the Associations Agreements. Substantial progress has been achieved to date with the scope of the negotiations gradually extended to services and right of establishment and agricultural and fisheries products. Ministers note with satisfaction the rising trend of foreign direct investments in the Euro-Mediterranean region and stress the significant role played by the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP). They are also pleased to note that Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the fields of environment, transport, energy and information society has increased and that common objectives have been defined.

Progress has also been registered in the social and cultural partnership, with joint initiatives launched to promote the role of women, young people and civil society. Ministers underline the important role of the Anna Lindh Foundation, established by the Euro-Mediterranean partners to promote dialogue between cultures and to convey universal principles and shared values and ensure better knowledge, mutual understanding and respect among Euro-Mediterranean peoples.

Ministers are pleased to communicate that most of the commitments made at their last meeting in Tampere have led to concrete initiatives in 2007, which are described below. They herewith present the main objectives and events planned for 2008.

Ministers stress the importance of the European Neighbourhood Policy, which contributes to reinforcing and complementing the Barcelona Process through implementing bilateral Association Agreements and the Action Plans in accordance with agreed priorities. They welcome the participation of Euro-Med partner countries in the International conference on 3rd September 2007 in Brussels 'Working together – strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy'. Ministers emphasise the importance of consultations regarding all new initiatives with the aim of enhancing cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In this context, Ministers take note of a presentation on the Mediterranean Union as an initiative to complement the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

They remind that the political objectives of the Barcelona process are sustained by a substantial budget of more than € 3.3 billion for 2007-2010, which has been earmarked for Mediterranean regional and bilateral cooperation in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). They also take note of the establishment of a ENP Governance Facility to support willing Mediterranean partners in carrying out their reforms and welcome the progress towards establishing a substantial ENP Investment Facility.

Ministers acknowledge the EU-Africa Joint Strategy and Plan of Action and look forward to the EU/Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007.

Ministers welcome Albania and Mauritania into the Barcelona Process.

I – Political and Security Partnership

Political and security dialogue

The Barcelona Declaration launched a partnership which is unique in its scope. The Barcelona Process is the only forum within which all Euro-Med partners exchange views and engage in a constructive dialogue in spite of the persisting conflict in the Middle East and in the other parts of the region. Political dialogue has become a regular item on the agenda of the Euro-Med Senior Officials meetings.

Since the Euro-Mediterranean Tampere Ministerial Conference which concluded that the Barcelona Process is not intended to replace the other activities and initiatives undertaken in

interests of peace, stability and development of the region and that it will also contribute to their success, the political and security dialogue has focused on a regular review of the political situation in the Middle East.

a. In this context, Ministers reaffirm their commitment to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, consistent with the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and its principles, including land for peace and based on the relevant UNSC resolutions and the Road Map. Partners also call for the reinvigoration of efforts to promote progress in the Middle East Peace Process on all its tracks.

Ministers welcome the positive role played by the EU in the Middle East, notably in the framework of the Quartet. They encourage the resumption of substantial bilateral talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority which should pave the way to the fulfillment of the vision of two national states, a safe and secure Israel and a viable, sovereign and democratic Palestinian State, living side by side in peace and security. Final state issues, including border issues, have to be agreed by the parties.

b. The implementation of the Code of Conduct on countering terrorism.

Ministers reiterate their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and their determination to eradicate it and to combat its sponsors and they reaffirm their commitment to fully implement the Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism in order to enhance the security of all citizens within a framework that ensures respect of the rule of law and human rights, particularly through more effective counterterrorism policies and deeper co-operation to dismantle all terrorist activities, to protect potential targets and to manage the consequences of attacks. They emphasise the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations without qualification, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. In this context the Ministers welcome the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in September 2006. They also reiterate the complete rejection of attempts to associate any religion or culture with terrorism, and confirm their commitment to do their utmost effort with a view to resolving conflict, ending occupation, confronting oppression, reducing poverty, promoting human rights and good governance, improving intercultural understanding and ensuring respect for all religions and beliefs. Such actions serve directly the interests of the people of the Euro-Med region and work against the interests of the terrorists and the networks.

Ministers underline the importance of the Euro-Med ad hoc meetings on terrorism which should be more oriented to the practical implementation of the code of conduct. They agreed to concentrate efforts for 2008 on technical issues such as reinforcing the international co-operation in criminal matters. They note that the Euro-Med ad hoc meeting on terrorism will take place in Brussels on 13th November. They also take note of the Euro-Med seminar which will take place in Morocco during the first semester of 2008 co-organised by Morocco and the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime. They also consider that all Partners should seek to meet commitments reflected in the Code of Conduct, on sharing experiences in managing the consequences of terrorist attacks and enhancing capacity building in this respect as well as addressing radicalisation and other issues.

Furthermore, Ministers took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the conference on 'Preventing incitement to terrorism and radicalisation: what role for the media?' (Dublin, 21 May 2007) co-organised by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission for follow up at appropriate level.

c. The deepening of the dialogue on ESDP and security issues. The Euro-Med ad hoc meeting on ESDP (Brussels, 13 June 2007) provided a good opportunity to review previous and upcoming ESDP dialogue and activities (civilian and military) between the EU and Mediterranean Partners. such as a Euro-Med seminar co-organised by European Institute on Security Studies and Morocco which will take place in Rabat in the first semester of 2008, such as Orientation courses under the auspices of the European Security and Defense College or EU crisis management exercises. An orientation course on ESDP for Euro-Med partners will take place from the 5th to the 9th November. An Euro-Med Senior Officials ad hoc meeting on ESDP is also foreseen in November 2007.

d. The launching of a regional dialogue on joint cooperation, best practices and exchange of technical experience in the area of elections. An initial dialogue on cooperation and best practices in the area of elections was launched at Senior Officials' level, where it has been agreed that such a dialogue could take place. Ministers expressed their wish that the useful discussions on the subject of elections at the Euro-Med senior officials meetings in 2007 can be continued at experts' level. Ministers agreed that joint cooperation and exchange of experience could be developed on a voluntary basis upon the request of any of the partners.

Ministers are convinced that the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) is a major asset that should improve dialogue and understanding between all peoples of the Euro-Med region. They take note of the results of the EMPA Plenary meeting held in March 2007 in Tunis. Ministers lend their full support to Greece, as the current Presidency of the EMPA, for a successful Plenary Assembly in 2008.

Enhancing the partnership building measures

a. EuroMeSCo initiatives related to civil society, human rights and democracy. Two EuroMeSCo sub-regional seminars (Meknès, 21-23 September 2006/Alexandria 26-28 April 2007) on civil society, human rights and democracy and the EuroMeSCo-seminar on 'Governance, Reform, Human Rights in the Euro-Med region' held in Berlin, on 31 May 2007, provided local and regional civil society actors with a meaningful platform to address the various challenges linked to political reform and democracy.

b. Towards a Euro-Mediterranean system of civil protection

The rising trend in vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters in many parts of the Mediterranean confirms the need for greater safety and security measures to be in place to the benefit of its citizens. The Commission has over the past years funded the Euro-Med Pilot Project (1998-2003) and the Euro-Med Bridge Programme for the Development of a Euro-Med system for the reduction, prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters (2005-2008) to strengthen and build up capacity of civil protection agencies in Mediterranean partner countries. Ministers welcome the continued support to this highly pertinent initiative with a new phase (2008-2010, Euro-Med Programme of Prevention, Reduction and management of natural and manmade Disasters) that should benefit from improved strategic approach and the recommendations put forward in the Mid-Term evaluation of the Bridge Programme. In this context, Ministers acknowledged the importance of strengthening the Mediterranean Partners national structures in charge of prevention, protection, preparedness, and response to all natural, and man-made risks, as well as of setting a network of permanent national correspondent.

c. Ministers welcomed the Commission proposal to offer a partnership between the Commission and Mediterranean partner country administrations in the exchange of professional experience. The offer from the Commission includes the secondment and exchange of officials and trainees.

(...)

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

The following is an edited summary of remarks by Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), to the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers at their plenary meeting and to journalists after the meeting.

Mr Solana underlined to ministers the importance of the meeting on the Middle East peace process to be held in Annapolis and the need for all the parties to play a constructive part. The same was true of the presidential election in Lebanon: all parties must be constructive. As regards the Barcelona Process, Mr Solana stressed the importance of discussing security and energy issues in the Euro-Mediterranean forum and pointed to the progress made in the past year.

‘Our discussion at dinner last night was very good, very constructive. We have a very important meeting ahead of us, in Annapolis, and it is vital that we all play a constructive role in this. I don’t want to say much more about this now; we are here to listen.

We also have ahead of us the election in Lebanon; this is a very important issue for all of us and therefore we have to be constructive in the resolving the problems related to this electoral process.

I would like to underline two other issues, security and energy. I think that if we were to talk in any format around this table, in any geometry, there will always be two points on the agenda, today: security and energy. On security, I think we are moving beyond the traditional concept of security and we are increasingly embracing aspects that are very important to us all. We have a series of shared problems, including terrorism, natural and man-made disasters, migration, and many others. On migration, we must continue cooperating together, more deeply.

Also, on European Security and Defence Policy, I am very happy that we are developing our cooperation in this field as part of the Barcelona Process. We have had had a number of meetings and seminars in 2007 and we look forward to enhancing our collaboration and looking at both civilian and military aspects, with particular emphasis on crisis management. We will be holding more meetings next year, including one in Rabat, and it will be very important to continue our discussions, holding seminars and analysing our cooperation, which is, I believe, very important.

The second major subject is energy. Energy is fundamental to our economies and is also becoming fundamental politically. I would like to underline that, since the last time we met, there have been important developments. The nuclear energy plans of many Mediterranean countries are a very important issue and I think we should talk about that and also encourage south-south cooperation and see how we can cooperate on this important aspect which is gaining increasing momentum in a number of countries around the table today.’

At the joint press conference with the Portuguese Foreign Minister and President-in-Office of the Council, Luis Amado, Mr Solana pointed to the strength and dynamism of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The work over the past year, the communiqué – a joint text agreed by everyone – and the fact that other countries wanted to join the club, reflected this.

‘The meetings today and yesterday have been very good. This is a group of countries that many other countries want to join and today we have two new members, Albania and Mauritania, and that is very good.

We have a dialogue on the Arab-Israeli peace process, we have dialogue on questions related to energy, to the economy and to civil society and, on these issues, we have moved on.

I would like to say that, from every point of view, the Euro-Mediterranean process is vital and fundamental and it is a catalyst for the peace process in the Middle East. Remember that there is no other place where Israelis and Palestinians, Arabs and Europeans meet together.

On the political dialogue, let me say that the dinner yesterday was, without doubt, the best there has been since the beginning. It was devoted to the peace process and we registered a new feeling of hope, of optimism, that was reflected in our debate, which was constructive. It left me with the impression that the process may lead to a solution to the conflict, starting with the Israeli-Palestinian track. We will see what takes place in the coming weeks and months. We need a solution that will bring an end to the occupation and we need a comprehensive solution. Perhaps, at Annapolis, the mood for this can begin to be created.

We will continue our work together on this. The European Union has a very important role, particularly within the International Quartet.

It is important also that we spoke yesterday not only of Annapolis but of the period before Annapolis and the period after Annapolis. After Annapolis, we will hold the donors’ conference in Paris and this is very important.

The second thing I would like to underline is that in the matter of security, the relationship between the European countries and the Mediterranean countries has matured very much. We are looking at how we can cooperate on security issues, including issues such as energy security, which is very important, and migration, which is also very important for security. We are also looking at the traditional peace-keeping operations in which we are engaged and which we would like to open up to members of the Euromed process.’

Asked about the Euro-Mediterranean partnership’s position on nuclear energy, Mr Solana replied that it did not have any fixed positions on energy and that it was important to tackle the issue of energy policy and the option of nuclear energy together: ‘It is true that in the Mediterranean there has been a change in energy policy with several countries in the Maghreb having decided to take up the option of nuclear energy. It is true that we spoke of that to see how we can help, in an international framework. It is a difficult process, requiring a great deal of time and investment, and the nuclear energy option is one that raises security issues. We have to tackle this issue together and we will continue to work in that direction.’

EUPOL Afghanistan – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 13 November 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/733/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 the European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,
Whereas:

- (1) On 30 May 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP on establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 18 June 2007, the Council approved Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management; these Guidelines notably provide that a Civilian Operation Commander will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations, under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/ High Representative for the CFSP (SG/HR); these Guidelines further provide that the Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) established within the Council Secretariat will, for each civilian crisis management operation, be the Civilian Operation Commander.
- (3) The abovementioned Command and Control Structure should be without prejudice to the contractual responsibilities of the Head of Mission towards the Commission for implementing the budget of the Mission.
- (4) The Watch-Keeping Capability established within the Council Secretariat should be activated for this Mission.
- (5) 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 5 shall be replaced by the following:
'3. In addition, a number of Mission staff will be deployed to improve strategic coordination in police reform in Afghanistan, as appropriate, and in particular with the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) Secretariat in Kabul. The IPCB Secretariat shall be located, as appropriate, at the EUPOL AFGHANISTAN HQ.'

2. A new Article shall be inserted:

'Article 5a

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian

(1) OJ L 139, 31.5.2007, p. 33.

Operation Commander for EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.

2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall exercise command and control of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN 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 (OPCON) of their personnel, teams and units to the Civilian Operation Commander.

5. The Civilian Operation Commander has overall responsibility for ensuring that the EU's duty of care is properly discharged.

6. The Civilian Operation Commander and the EUSR shall consult each other as required.'

3. Paragraphs 2 to 8 of Article 6 shall be replaced by the following:

'2. The Head of Mission shall assume responsibility and exercise command and control of the Mission at theatre level.

3. 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.

4. The Head of Mission shall issue instructions to all Mission staff, including in this case the support element in Brussels, for the effective conduct of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN in theatre, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, following the instructions at strategic level of the Civilian Operation Commander.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The Head of Mission shall represent EUPOL AFGHANISTAN in the operations area and shall ensure appropriate visibility of the Mission.

8. The Head of Mission shall coordinate, as appropriate, with other EU actors on the ground. The Head of Mission shall, without prejudice to the chain of command, receive local political guidance from the EUSR.

9. The Head of Mission shall ensure that EUPOL AFGHANISTAN works closely and coordinates with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international actors, as appropriate, including NATO/ISAF, PRT Lead Nations, UNAMA, and third states currently involved in police reform in Afghanistan.'

4. Paragraph 5 of Article 7 shall be replaced by the following:

'5. 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 (*).

(*) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).'

5. Article 9 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 9

Chain of Command

1. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN 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 EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.
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 EUPOL AFGHANISTAN 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 EUPOL AFGHANISTAN at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.’

6. Article 10 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 10

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 on the European Union. This authorisation shall include the powers to amend the OPLAN. It shall also include powers to take subsequent 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.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. 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.’

7. Article 11 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 11

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 EUPOL AFGHANISTAN in accordance with Articles 5a and 9, 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 the European Union and its supporting documents.
3. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Senior Mission Security Officer (SMSO), who will report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the Council Security Office.

4. The Head of Mission will appoint Area Security Officers in the provincial and regional Mission locations, who, under the authority of the SMSO will be responsible for the day-to-day management of all security aspects of the respective Mission elements.

5. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN staff shall undergo mandatory security training before their entry into function, in accordance with the OPLAN. They shall also receive regular in-theatre refresher training organised by the SMSO’.

8. A new Article shall be inserted after Article 15:

‘Article 15a

Watch-Keeping

The Watch-Keeping Capability shall be activated for EUPOL AFGHANISTAN.’

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, 13 November 2007.

For the Council

The President

F. Teixeira Dos Santos

External Relations Council

Brussels, 19 November 2007

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council, in the presence of defence ministers, held its six-monthly review of developments in the ESDP. It adopted the following conclusions:

‘ESDP Operations and Missions

EUFOR Tchad/RCA

1. Following the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), which approved the deployment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence and authorised the EU to provide the military element of it, the EU decided to take action. The operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA is taking place in the framework of a comprehensive EU effort to facilitate a long lasting solution to the conflict in Darfur and to promote regional stability.
2. The deployment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA is a concrete expression of the EU's comprehensive commitment to actively work for the improvement of the security situation in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic, by contributing to the protection of refugees and IDPs, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping to create the conditions for displaced people to return to their places of origin voluntarily, as well as contributing to ensure the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) security and freedom to operate.
3. The Council recalls the appointment of General Patrick Nash as Operation Commander and supports his efforts to complete the operational planning phase for a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR Tchad/RCA) in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, for a period of one year from the date that its initial operational capability is declared. EUFOR Tchad/RCA is neutral, multinational and independent and deployment has been welcomed by both the Governments of Chad and of the Central African Republic.
4. The Council emphasised that the planning of the operation is taking place in full coordination with the UN and in consultation with African partners.
5. Non-EU European NATO members and other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU have been informed on the EU intentions concerning the operation from the earliest stages of Council discussions, by means of SG/HR letters and through exchanges of views in meetings with the PSC. Other third States, including European partners, received information from the Council Secretariat, as appropriate. The Council looked forward to third States contributions to the operation.
6. The Council welcomed the Commission's intention to contribute substantially to the UN programme for the establishment of the UN Police force, and, following the requests made by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic, to implement transitional pro-

grammes of recovery and rehabilitation covering reconciliation oriented activities, support to the voluntary return of IDPs and to the rehabilitation in their places of origin, and support to local governance.

Civil-military supporting action for AMIS in Sudan/Darfur

7. The EU reaffirmed that it strongly supports the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) ongoing efforts to solving the conflict in Darfur within a comprehensive and regional approach and welcomed the setting up of the UN/AU hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

8. The Council noted that it is crucial that AMIS receives the support it needs from the international community to enable it to carry on its mission during the transition to UNAMID. In this context, the Council reaffirmed the EU's intention to ensure the continuation of its current support to AMIS, up to the transfer of authority to UNAMID.

RD Congo

9. The Council noted that the re-launching of the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process, stalled since December 2006, did not materialise during the last 6 months. The Council therefore encouraged all involved actors to make every effort to surmount current obstacles and find solutions enabling, in particular, the completion of the demobilisation process.

10. Further progress in security sector reform (SSR) remains necessary to reach a sustainable stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Whilst the security concerns in the East of the country require immediate attention, in-depth reforms across the whole security sector (defence, police, justice) should remain a priority in order to allow a long-term stability and return to normality. Improved security conditions, as well as the implementation of national development strategies, continue to be essential to restoring confidence among economic actors and investors.

11. Concerning the reform of the defence sector, the Council underlined the importance of elaborating a detailed concept for the future armed forces that is sustainable. In the field short-term reconstruction of the defence sector, short term priorities should be implemented taking into account the broader requirements for reforming the defence sector as identified by the Congolese authorities assisted by their partners, in particular the ESDP mission EUSEC RD Congo.

12. The Council recalled its support to the work conducted by EUSEC RD Congo.

13. EUPOL RD Congo, the new ESDP police mission and its interface with justice sector, took over from EUPOL Kinshasa, which was successfully concluded on 30th June 2007. The Council noted that the mission is assisting the Congolese authorities in the reform and restructuring of the "Police Nationale Congolaise", and in the improvement of the overall functioning of the criminal justice system, through a justice interface. The Council expressed its appreciation for the fact that the mission is also contributing to the overall efforts in support of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) in DRC, in close coordination with the other actors engaged in SSR, especially the other ESDP mission EUSEC RD Congo and the European Community activities. The Council further urged the Congolese authorities to move forward on reform of the police and of the justice system.

Guinea Bissau

14. The Council noted that, following an initial joint Council-Commission information gathering mission in May 2007 to Guinea Bissau, consideration has been given to a possible option for an ESDP advice and assistance mission consisting of a small number of civilian and military technical experts in support of the national Security Sector Reform process. The Council considered that an ESDP action in the field of Security Sector Reform in Guinea Bissau would be appropriate, in coherence with and complementary to European Development Fund and other Community activity. The Council welcomed the progress on planning, including the elaboration of the draft General Concept following a Fact Finding Mission that took place in mid-October.

EUPOL AFGHANISTAN

15. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, launched on 15th June 2007, aims at contributing to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements that ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system. Furthermore the Mission supports the reform process towards a trusted and efficient police service which works in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights. The Council noted that the Mission is currently in a build-up phase and will reach its full operational capability by March 2008.

BiH (Operation ALTHEA)

16. The Council welcomed the successful reconfiguration of Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The force now numbers some 2500 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves. The Council welcomed the contribution of the European Gendarmerie Force to the Integrated Police Unit of Operation Althea. While noting that the security situation remains stable, the Council follows with concern recent political developments in BiH. The Council reiterated that EUFOR continues to provide reassurance and remains ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country. The Council welcomed the continuing excellent co-operation between the various EU actors in the field. It noted that co-operation with NATO in respect of Operation ALTHEA continued to work well.

17. The Council reiterated that, as part of the EU's overall engagement in BiH, the EU would retain a military presence in the country for as long as necessary in order to continue to contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

EUPM

18. The EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM) has made progress in developing sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership in the past years. Its aim, through mentoring, monitoring and inspecting, is to establish in BiH a sustainable, professional and multiethnic police service operating in accordance with European and international standards. Considering that, at the end of EUPM's second mandate, the desired end-state will not have been fully reached the Council has decided to extend the Mission until the 31st December 2009.

EUPT Kosovo

19. The Council welcomed the progress made in planning for a possible ESDP Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. The Council decided the extension of EUPT's mandate until 31st March 2008.

EUPOL COPPS

20. The Council confirmed its support to the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) through the reengagement of the EUPOL COPPS. The main goal of this mission is to contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective policing arrangements under Palestinian ownership in accordance with best international standards. The Council calls on Israel to provide accreditation to the Mission without delay.

EUBAM Rafah

21. The Council reiterated its commitment to the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah), to the Agreements concluded and to the region, in particular the Gaza population. It underlined the importance of the implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access by all parties. The Council noted that the Mission, despite the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point since 14 June 2007, preserves its operational ability to redeploy at short notice.

EUJUST LEX

22. The EU has been contributing towards strengthening the rule of law in Iraq and promoting human rights through its Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX) since July 2005, by providing training courses and work experience secondments in EU member States for senior Iraqi police, judicial and penitentiary personnel. The Council welcomed the extension of EUJUST LEX, which will continue its work in partnership with Iraqi Authorities and international bodies, until 30th June 2009.

Military Capabilities

23. The Council noted with great satisfaction the progress made in implementing the qualitative approach to the EU military capabilities development process in the framework of the Headline Goal 2010.

24. The Council approved the Progress Catalogue 2007 (PC07). This catalogue is based on the requirements set in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 (RC05) and on Member States scrutinised contributions for 2010 gathered in the Force Catalogue 2007 (FC07). In addition to a broad confirmation of the findings of the Helsinki Progress Catalogue (HPC03), it provides a structured assessment of capabilities and offers a systematic evaluation of the identified capability shortfalls. The most critical shortfalls relate to the areas of force protection, deployability and information superiority. In addition, PC07 presents an expression of potential operational risks for ESDP operations with an initial orientation based on the severity of the impact of the capability shortfalls. It concludes that the EU can conduct the full spectrum of military ESDP operations within the parameters of the Strategic Planning Assumptions, with different levels of risk caused by the recognised shortfalls.

25. The Council urged taking forward the follow-on work recommended in PC07, including the need for additional information on ongoing plans and initiatives. It encouraged Member States to undertake the appropriate actions in order to address the identified capability shortfalls, including through good use of opportunities for co-operation aiming at improving the EU's capability to act and the European Defence Agency (EDA) to continue being actively involved in capability development in close cooperation with the EU Military Committee (EUMC).

26. The Council noted that the PC07 and the follow-on work on prioritisation will be used as a significant input to the Capability Development Plan (CDP), which participating Member States are elaborating through the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the EU Military Committee (EUMC). The Council welcomed the active co-operation between the EUMC and the EDA, particularly their joint effort aiming at supporting the development of the Capability Development Plan as a tool to orientate the Member States in their investments to improve their military capabilities.

27. The Council looked forward to a possible way ahead to be agreed by the end of 2007 for the remaining European Capabilities Action Plan Project Groups, including their deliverables.

28. The Council recognised the continued need for cooperation between EU and NATO at different levels, including on issues of military capability development. The EU-NATO Capability Group continued to provide a forum for exchanging information on the development of military capabilities in the EU and NATO where requirements overlap. All Member States were informed of these issues. The Council welcomed that, at the initiative of the Presidency, the PSC had concluded work on finding ways to improve the modalities of functioning of the Capability Group, while noting that the participation of all EU Member States to the Group would further facilitate the exchange of information between the two organisations in the domain of military capabilities.

29. The Council noted the work on Information Exchange Requirements (IER), including a Global Overview and a Roadmap noted by the PSC in July 2007, aimed at defining operational requirements for exchanging information between all entities, both civilian and military, that may interact in support of ESDP operations with a view to a comprehensive approach. All stakeholders are encouraged to take forward work on identifying an agreed set of IER in close co-ordination with the work undertaken on the Network Enabled Capabilities (NEC), for consideration by the Council bodies, including the PSC.

EUMS ability to conduct planning at the strategic level

30. The Council welcomed the report by the SG/HR on the EU Military Staff's ability to conduct planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations, as requested by the Council in May 2007, and approved the recommendations to implement, as a package, the four measures, together with the actions identified in the military advice.

31. The Council will revert to this issue as soon as practicable during the course of 2008, including the need for any additional personnel, on the basis of an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the measures and actions in responding to the Council request to the SG/HR.

EU Operations Centre

32. The Council noted with satisfaction that the EU Operations Centre, which reached operational capability on 1 January 2007, has been successfully activated for the first time during MILEX 07 in June 2007. It welcomed the initial lessons learned and looked forward to the subsequent identification of possible actions to be taken for improving this capability, taking into account the impact of the activation of the Operations Centre in the daily work of the EUMS, the weaknesses of the EU Operations Centre manning model and the SG/HR report on the military strategic planning capacity of the EUMS, as appropriate.

Rapid Response

33. The Council noted work on a possible revision of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept, from a joint perspective and following a comprehensive approach to crisis management, bearing in mind the EU's level of ambition as laid down in the Headline Goal 2010 process. This review shall be concluded in 2008. It will take due account of the Battlegroup concept and the ongoing work on the Maritime Rapid Response and Air Rapid Response Concepts. The aforementioned concepts have to be coherent with the overarching EU Military Rapid Response Concept. The revised EU Military Rapid Response Concept should be tested and exercised.

34. The Council welcomed the outcome of the Battlegroups Co-ordination Conference (BGCC) on 11 October, where Member States have committed the required Battlegroup packages up to and including first semester 2010. The period is further consolidated by confirmation of the EL-BG-RO-CY Battlegroup. The Council encouraged volunteering Member States to make new offers at next BGCC in April 2008 and fill in particular the vacant slot in second semester of 2010. The Council looked forward to suggestions on standardisation in support of Member States-led preparatory activities, based on a methodology and a roadmap which were agreed by the EUMC in October.

Civilian Capabilities

35. The Council welcomed the adoption of the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and underlined the importance placed on continuing to develop the civilian crisis management capabilities, in particular to strengthen internal EU co-ordination. It expressed satisfaction for the successful conclusion of the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 as part of the further operational development of ESDP. It endorsed the Policy Paper on a Civilian ESDP Capability Planning Process. The Council also endorsed the Ministerial Declaration of the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference 2007.

36. The Council expressed satisfaction for the progress made in the implementation of the Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management, and in particular the establishment of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability.

EDA

37. The Council noted the report by the Head of the Agency of its activities and welcomed the results achieved, in particular in the areas targeted in the Council Guidelines for the EDA's work in 2007. The Council approved the guidelines for the Agency's work in 2008.

38. The Council noted with satisfaction the results achieved in developing long-term strategies:

- ▶ continued progress on the elaboration of a Capability Development Plan, with agreement on a Methodology and a Roadmap for this purpose. The CDP will aim at identifying priorities for capability improvement and at bringing out opportunities to pool resources and to cooperate. More particularly, decisive progress was made on the two strands under the Agency's lead: work on the identification of longer-term trends beyond the Headline Goal 2010, and collection of pMS' national plans and programmes in a

common database in view of identifying early opportunities for collaboration;

- ▶ implementation of the strategy for developing a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB), with agreement on roadmaps including clear milestones (on issues such as ensuring Security of Supply, increasing competition and cooperation, identifying the key industrial capacities to develop or preserve in Europe, etc);
- ▶ adoption of a Framework for developing a European Defence Research and Technology (EDRT) strategy by the Steering Board on 19 November;
- ▶ agreement on enablers for enhancing cooperation to underpin the Armaments strategy to be developed in 2008.

39. Furthermore, the Council encouraged the EDA to consider opportunities for proposing the establishment of cooperative armament programmes.

40. The Council also welcomed the progress made in a number of policies, programmes/projects and initiatives:

- ▶ generally effective functioning of the regime on defence procurement – operated through the Electronic Bulletin Board, with a good degree of transparency among subscribing Member States. The Council underlined the importance of ensuring that more cross-border contracts are awarded;
- ▶ adoption by the Steering Board in National Armaments Directors' formation of a Code of Conduct for promoting transparency and encouraging coordination of investments in the field of defence test and evaluation facilities, in order to improve cooperation among pMS and reduce overcapacities;
- ▶ successful implementation of the first Defence Research and Technology Joint Investment Programme, in the area of Force Protection – with five proposals already selected by contributing Members for contracting;
- ▶ continued progress towards the identification of common defence capability requirements in association with the competent Council bodies, in particular in the area of Network Enabled Capabilities (NEC); Operational Intelligence (installation of the Tactical Imagery Exploitation Station – TIES – demonstrator at the EU Satellite Centre); 21st Century Solder Systems (agreement on a new category B programme for Combat Equipment Dismounted Soldier); strategic transport (work initiated to identify solutions for improving the future capability of the EU);
- ▶ the approval by the Steering Board of collective benchmarks regarding expenditures on equipment procurement and defence research and technology, including European collaborative expenditures. These benchmarks can be used for national target setting, on a voluntary basis and without timelines.

41. The Council noted with interest the Agency's efforts to seek synergies between military and civilian activities, in consultation and coordination with the European Commission (in relation to its research activities), especially in the areas of SDR (ongoing efforts to develop a next-generation SDR system), UAV (initiated work on their Insertion in General Air Traffic) and Maritime Surveillance.

42. The Council invited the Agency to continue their support for collecting the IER (Information Exchange Requirements) for ESDP operations.

Exercises

43. The Council welcomed the preparatory work undertaken for the EU crisis management exercise to be held in 2008 (CME 08), which provides a good opportunity to exercise and evaluate a range of EU crisis management structures, procedures and consultations arrangements in the context of a crisis management operation without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities. This exercise is undertaken with a view to improving the EU capacity, including the EU decision-making process, to manage crises with civilian and military instruments, including their coordination within the EU. The EU OHQ for this exercise will be at Mont Valérien and will be provided by France. This will be the first time that the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability will be participating in an exercise.

44. The Council welcomed the successful conduct of the EU military Exercise 2007 (MILEX 07). This second EU military exercise took place from 7 to 15 June 2007 and focused mainly on the interaction between the EU Operations Centre in Brussels and the EU Force Headquarters in Enköping, provided by Sweden.

45. The Council welcomed the preparatory work undertaken for the EU Military Exercise to be held in 2008 (MILEX 08), focusing on military aspects of crisis management at the military strategic and operational level for an envisaged EU-led crisis management operation without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities. The OHQ for this exercise will be at Rome, and will be provided by Italy.

Human Rights Issues and Gender Issues

46. The Council welcomed the fact that Human Rights issues and Gender issues continued to be systematically included in the planning and conduct of all ESDP operations, and subsequently evaluated in the lessons learned process. It recalled the importance of Human Rights issues and Gender mainstreaming and called for reinforcement of efforts in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1612 and relevant EU documents on human rights issues and gender issues in ESDP, particularly with a view to achieving more concrete progress in this field on the ground.

47. The Council also called for closer co-operation on these issues with EU Special Representatives (EUSRs), whose mandates now contain specific provisions to address Human Rights issues and Gender issues. The Council recalled its invitation to Member States in this context to nominate more female candidates for CFSP/ESDP senior management positions, including for EUSRs as well as for ESDP missions and operations in general.

EU-UN

48. The Council welcomed recent steps to ensure greater mutual understanding of the decision-making and planning processes of the EU and UN, in particular the ongoing implementation of the Joint statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management signed on 7 June 2007.

49. Furthermore, the Council welcomed the continued close co-operation between the EU and the UN regarding support to the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the ongoing implementation of the UN support package to AMIS and the transition to a hybrid mission (UNAMID). The Council acknowledged that this close co-operation will also be of crucial

importance in the context of EUFOR Tchad/RCA.

50. The Council repeated that the EU is committed to further strengthening co-operation with the UN on crisis management, building in particular on experience gained so far and, in this context, welcomed recent high-level dialogue between them. The Council expressed its intention to further enhance regular political dialogue and exchanges of views between senior officials and experts, including in the area of SSR.

EU/AU Cooperation – Strengthening African Capabilities

51. The Council reaffirmed the importance it attaches to cooperation with African partners in the framework of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership, and underlined its wish to see its further development in the context of the forthcoming EU-Africa Summit to be held in Lisbon on 8 and 9 December. One of the main objectives of this strategy will be to promote peace, security, sustainable development, democratic governance and human rights, and regional and continental integration in Africa. The Council welcomed the forthcoming opening of the EU delegation to the African Union, which will be an important step to achieve the EU's comprehensive policy objectives in relation with the AU.

52. The Council encouraged all stakeholders involved in the Action Plan on strengthening the partnership between Africa and the EU in the field of African capabilities for the prevention management and resolution of conflicts, adopted by the Council in May 2007, to make all necessary efforts with a view to its effective and timely implementation. This includes the development of EURO RECAMP, which will play a key role in the implementation of the African Standby Force (ASF) Training Plan. The EURO RECAMP cycle will focus on the development of the AU Peace Support Operation Department capacities and will provide a Command Post-Exercise in 2010 at a continental level in order to support the AU review process of the ASF.

Mediterranean Partners

53. The Council welcomed further enhancement of the dialogue and co-operation among the Euro-Mediterranean Partners on ESDP. Ministers of Defence at their informal meeting in Évora on 28-29 September discussed the co-operation with Mediterranean partners on ESDP and were briefed on the multilateral co-operation in the framework of the "Initiative 5+5", presented to them at a session involving Ministers for Defence from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College, a special edition of the ESDP Orientation Course with a specific focus on ESDP and security in the Mediterranean area (Barcelona process' new challenges, instability and threats to security in the Mediterranean area, transnational communities and security in the Mediterranean area) was co-organised by Cyprus, France, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, with the support of Italy, in Brussels from 5 to 9 November, involving participants from Mediterranean partners.'

PAKISTAN

At lunch, ministers held an exchange of views on recent developments in Pakistan, expressing concern at the situation and calling for the lifting of emergency rule, in line with a recent EU presidency declaration. In that declaration, the presidency asked the Pakistani authorities to

take urgent action to restore the Constitution, to hold free and fair parliamentary elections on schedule, to release all political prisoners, to pursue reconciliation with the opposition, to relax restrictions on the media and to honour President Musharraf's commitment to step down as chief of the armed forces.

MIDDLE EAST

Middle East peace process – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The Council reiterates its strong support for the upcoming international meeting at Annapolis and the efforts of Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert. It looks forward to the achievement of concrete results leading to meaningful final status negotiations. These should result in a two state solution with the establishment of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. The Council reaffirms that this is a crucial opportunity for regional and international partners to effectively support a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In this context, the Council calls for a continued broad and positive involvement by Arab partners, building on the Arab Peace Initiative.

The Council expresses its full commitment to further support the parties in their ongoing negotiations and subsequent implementation. In this context, the Council welcomes the EU Action Strategy submitted by the EU High Representative in full association with the Commission, which will be the basis for further work by the EU taking into account the results of the Annapolis International meeting.

In order to consolidate progress achieved so far and to fulfil the potential of the current process, the Council urges both parties to take additional steps to meet previous commitments, including those under the Road Map and the Agreement on Movement and Access. The Council calls upon the parties to desist from any actions that threaten the viability of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, in conformity with international law.

The Council also emphasizes the importance of the Paris Donors' Conference, in December, and supports its goals of securing funding for the building of the institutions and economy of the future Palestinian state. In this context, the Council calls for the mobilisation of significant international financial support.'

Lebanon – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council expresses its growing concern that it has not yet been possible to elect a new President in Lebanon and the parliamentary session has been postponed for the third time until November 21st. It welcomes, however, the spirit of dialogue that has been observed in recent weeks and reaffirms the desire for successful Lebanese Presidential elections. It reiterates its call for the holding of free and fair presidential elections, without foreign interference and in conformity with the agreed schedule and the Constitution.

2. To this end, the Council strongly encourages the Lebanese parties to reach a solution through dialogue and in a spirit of consensus and in full respect of the Lebanese democratic

institutions and constitutional norms. Such a solution is the only way to break the political deadlock in the country.

3. The Council recalls previous statements and remains determined to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, independence territorial integrity, unity and stability, according notably to UNSC Resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701 and 1757.'

IRAN

At lunch, ministers discussed developments regarding the Iranian nuclear issue, following the International Atomic Energy Agency director-general's 15 November report, and on the basis of a briefing by high representative Javier Solana on his contacts with the Iranians.

IRAQ

Ministers discussed the situation in Iraq and held an exchange of views with Iraqi foreign minister Hoshyar Zebari.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'1. The Council warmly welcomes the attendance of Foreign Minister of Iraq, H E Hoshyar Zebari, and the opportunity to enhance the political engagement of the EU with Iraq and to reiterate the commitments made by the EU to support Iraq. Following discussions with FM Zebari and taking into account the views of the Government of Iraq, the Council, recalling its current actions, agreed that the EU should work closely with the UN to further identify and deliver support for it to fulfil its role as set out in UNSCR 1770; identify further contributions to help alleviate the humanitarian situation in Iraq and the region; identify and take opportunities to provide further human rights support; and assist the Iraqi authorities in meeting their responsibilities in accordance with the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) and identify and provide further support.

2. The EU welcomes the holding of the Expanded Ministerial Conference of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq in Istanbul on 2 – 3 November 2007. The Council underlines the importance of continuing the dialogue and co-operation between Iraq and its neighbours and notes with satisfaction that the next Ministerial Conference will be held in Kuwait. It recalls that constructive engagement of Iraq's neighbours and partners in the region remains essential to achieve peace and stability in Iraq and in the region as a whole and encourages all partners in the region to live up to the commitments made in the Final Communiqué of the Istanbul meeting. The EU remains ready to offer its support in this endeavour.

3. The Council emphasises the obligation of neighbouring countries to contribute to the political stabilisation of Iraq, whose territorial integrity should be preserved. It encourages the Government of Iraq to undertake all necessary measures to promote stability through an effective national reconciliation process.

4. The Council welcomes the decision by the Government of Iraq to form an "ad-hoc expanded neighbours support mechanism" to deal with substantive, technical and organizational issues concerning this process and the endorsement of this decision by the Ministerial Conference in Istanbul. The Council expects the Neighbours process, and in particular this support mechanism, to result in concrete steps forward, and emphasises the crucial role of constructive relations between Iraq and its neighbours at the political and technical level.

5. The Council emphasizes the importance of the essential input and recommendations provided by the three working groups on energy, security and refugees and internally displaced persons, which were established by the Expanded Ministerial Conference on 4 May in Sharm El Sheikh. It notes with satisfaction the decision by the Ministerial Conference of Istanbul to convene the next sessions of these groups and calls for those meetings to be held as soon as possible. It encourages all neighbouring countries to participate constructively in this work and reiterates its readiness to participate, assist and provide expertise to these working groups.

6. The Council recalls the obligation of the Government of Iraq, its neighbouring countries and the international community, as expressed in Istanbul, to protect and assist displaced Iraqis by addressing their immediate and foreseeable needs and ensure their safety. It calls upon the Iraqi Government to assist vulnerable groups, including refugees and internally displaced persons and to promote the protection of human rights. The EU reiterates that it stands ready to support the Iraqi authorities in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms, underlining the need to protect the rights of all Iraqis, including those of women and persons belonging to religious and ethnic minorities. The Council calls upon the Iraqi Government to suspend the practice of the death penalty as a step towards abolition. The EU especially welcomes work of UNAMI in the field of human rights and calls upon all relevant parties to support UNAMI in this endeavour. The EU will continue to identify in a concerted way possibilities for further assistance to the Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries and internally displaced persons. It recalls the commitment made by participants in the Istanbul Conference to deliver assistance in coordination with the Government of Iraq also by contributing to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI).

7. The Council is encouraged by and considers of utmost importance the continued dialogue and co-operation between Iraq and Turkey on the combat of terrorism. It calls on the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to take the appropriate measures to ensure respect for the Turkish border and guarantee that the Iraqi territory is not used for violent action against its neighbours.'

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council reviewed the situation in the Western Balkans, focusing on Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It adopted the following conclusions:

'KOSOVO

The Council welcomed the fact that elections in Kosovo took place in an orderly and peaceful manner and that the Council of Europe Election Observation mission, in its preliminary statement, has assessed that the elections were conducted generally in line with international and European standards for democratic elections. The Council expressed its disappointment of the low overall voter turnout. It regretted the low participation by the Kosovo Serb community and Belgrade's call for a boycott and stressed the importance of the inclusion of all communities in political life in Kosovo. The Council looked forward to an early formation of a new Government to strengthen the reform agenda to the benefit of all communities in Kosovo.

The Council was briefed by Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, the EU representative in the Troika facilitating negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina on the future status of Kosovo, on the state of play of the process.

Reaffirming its full support to the Troika and to Ambassador Ischinger, and in view of the imminent conclusion of the Troika process on 10 December, the Council looked forward to the intensification of the negotiations and urged the two parties to show greater flexibility, to respond positively and constructively to the Troika's initiatives, making every effort to secure a negotiated settlement of the status of Kosovo. The Council reiterated the necessity of rapidly finding a solution to the Kosovo status issue. The Council confirmed that the EU stands ready to play a significant role in Kosovo in the future and is preparing accordingly.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Council welcomed the Statement of the PIC meeting on 30 and 31 October 2007. The Council expressed grave concern over the deteriorating political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It underlined the responsibility of the political leaders of the country to stop undermining the foundations of the State, to ensure the full functioning of State institutions and to advance reforms which are essential for Bosnia and Herzegovina to move forward. The Council reiterated its full support for HR/EUSR Miroslav Lajcak and underlined the need for all parties, including those in the Republika Srpska, to fully respect and promptly implement his decisions.

The Council welcomed the Mostar Declaration of 28 October 2007 which can serve as the starting point for a positive re-engagement of the government coalition parties, and urged the signatories to take the necessary follow-up action.

Recalling its conclusions of 15 October 2007, the Council reiterated that police reform remains the key priority and one of the four necessary conditions for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement.'

GEORGIA

The Council held an exchange of views on recent developments in Georgia, in the run-up of presidential elections and a referendum on early parliamentary elections, as announced by President Sakashvili for 5 January 2008. While the state of emergency has been lifted, media freedom remains of concern. The importance of ensuring all the conditions for due democratic process regarding the electoral campaign and the conduct of the elections was underlined. The Council will continue to keep the situation under close review.

SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed, in the presence of development and defence ministers, how to achieve coherence between security and development in policy and concrete terms. It adopted the following conclusions:

1. The 2003 European Security Strategy and the 2005 European Consensus on Development acknowledge that there cannot be sustainable development without peace and security, and that without development and poverty eradication there will be no sustainable peace.
2. The Council firmly believes that this nexus between development and security should inform EU strategies and policies in order to contribute to the coherence of EU external action, whilst recognising that the responsibilities and roles of development and security actors are complementary but remain specific.

3. The Council recalls that the EU, as an important global actor, can avail itself of a wide array of instruments to contribute to long-term development and poverty eradication, to prevent and manage violent conflict and to build peace in developing countries. The EU will endeavour to improve the coherence, efficiency and visibility of its external policies and build synergies between them, with due regard for cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender, including the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, promotion of democracy, governance, the rule of law and environmental sustainability.
4. The Council fully recognises the important role of the UN in strengthening the inter-linkages between security, development and human rights. The Council also underlines the contributions of other international and regional organisations in this field, and the need to ensure coherence between work undertaken by the EU and those organisations.
5. The Council, underlining that conflict prevention should be pursued as a priority goal in particular by fostering and strengthening development cooperation, invites the Community, within the respective competences of its Institutions, to further enlarge and improve channels of dialogue and cooperation with civil society, NGOs, local authorities and the private sector.
6. Increasing coherence between security and development, both at a policy and an operational level, is a process that requires short-term improvements and longer term action. As a step in this process the Council has identified initial pragmatic actions for increased coherence in some of the areas spanning the security-development nexus: strategic planning, Security Sector Reform, partnerships with regional and sub regional organisations, and humanitarian aid and security. This is without prejudice to other important areas of the nexus, where work also should be taken forward in the future.
7. In addressing these areas, the Council also recalls its Conclusions on an EU response to situations of fragility.

I. Pragmatic Actions

Strategic Planning

8. The EU is addressing insecurity, and conflicts and their root causes, through a wide range of instruments. Inter-linkage between security and development should be seen as an integral part of the ongoing EU efforts, including those to enhance Civil-Military Coordination (CMCO) in order to address complex crises in a coherent manner.
9. To enhance coherence and consistency, the Council calls for further intensified cooperation within and between Council bodies, Commission services and Member States, in particular by improving the sequencing in the strategic planning of their short term and longer-term actions. This should be promoted by:
 - ▮ a more systematic consideration by the relevant Council bodies of the potential synergies between security and development, for example through joint meetings where appropriate, including across pillars;
 - ▮ systematically carrying out security/conflict sensitive assessments and conflict analysis, where appropriate, in the preparation of country and regional strategies and programmes;
 - ▮ taking into account the development dimension in the preparation of CFSP/ESDP activities, and taking into account security aspects, including the CFSP/ESDP dimension, in the preparation of development activities;
 - ▮ engaging in in-depth consultations, strategic political and conflict analyses and screen-

ings with a view to planning and acting consistently on early signs of tension, instability and fragility;

- ▶ ensuring coordination across the pillars through consistent planning arrangements (Member States, Commission and General Secretariat of the Council (GSC)), sequencing and implementation arrangements, including joint Fact Finding Missions and the joint establishment of a Crisis Management Concept (CMC)¹ for a given crisis, where appropriate;
- ▶ promoting joint training courses and joint Assessment Missions;
- ▶ intensifying cooperation with international institutions, in particular the UN, during the strategic planning process, especially on the basis of the Joint Statement on EU-UN Cooperation in Crisis Management.

Security Sector Reform (SSR)²

10. Ongoing SSR activities have demonstrated the need for whole-of-government coordination between short and long-term planning and actions. Based on the EU Policy Framework for SSR and taking into account the work undertaken in the OECD/DAC regarding the whole-of-government approach, the Council calls on Member States, the Commission and the GSC to further improve coordination and information exchange and to pursue joint assessments by:

- ▶ enhancing information flows on policy developments and ongoing and planned SSR activities;
- ▶ pursuing field coordination between all actors, including non-EU actors;
- ▶ when appropriate, carrying out joint assessments and analyses covering all necessary components in the area of SSR to ensure timely and well coordinated engagement in the broader context of democratic governance;
- ▶ sharing experience on pooled funding and mechanisms for rapid deployment of experts and flexible support;
- ▶ boosting Commission and GSC in-house SSR expertise, including through joint training and secondment of national experts to assessment missions;
- ▶ pursuing joint efforts to build SSR capacity in regional organisations.

The Council notes that Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) is closely linked to SSR and the EU should continue its work on strengthening the EUs support to DDR on the basis of the EU Joint Concept.

Partnerships with regional and subregional organisations

11. The Council commends the work undertaken in the framework of the EU/Africa Partnership as a way forward for a coherent and holistic approach towards security and development challenges. It is built on the partnership with a regional organisation and based on the principle of ownership, while pursuing respective security priorities. The complementarity between EU security and development priorities is supported by the necessary interaction with other policy areas like governance or regional integration, all acting in a mutually reinforcing way.

12. The Council therefore underlines that frameworks agreed with regional and subregional organisations should be considered when designing future actions related to security and devel-

1. Reference is made to the recent experience in preparing for the Chad mission.

2. EU Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform, doc. 9967/06.

opment. In this context, the Council stresses the importance of the framework of the future Joint EU-Africa Strategy and its Action Plan, particularly the Peace and Security cluster.

Humanitarian aid and security

13. The Council recalls that the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid sets out the principles and internationally agreed norms and guidelines applicable to EU humanitarian aid, which contains, inter alia, elements for developing future action. The Council underlines that, while humanitarian, development and military/security actors have different but complementary roles and mandates, interaction and cooperation must be ensured. The Council believes that the impartiality, humanity, neutrality and independence of the humanitarian action in such circumstances must and can be safeguarded, and that the effectiveness of the respective interventions can be improved by:

- ▶ consulting humanitarian actors from the outset during the planning process and follow-up of military missions;
- ▶ ensuring coordination with humanitarian actors in the field, including through coordination mechanisms, when military activities are needed to secure the humanitarian space; in this regard, civil-military coordination and liaison officers should be deployed, where and when needed.

II. Way forward

14. The Council underlines that the importance of the security and development nexus warrants its particular attention in the future. The Council therefore invites Member States, the Commission and the GSC to take the work on security and development forward under the guidance of future Presidencies, including in the framework of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD).

15. The Council calls on the Commission and the GSC, in close cooperation with Member States, to prepare an Action Plan with a view to implementing the actions set out in these Conclusions, and to submit this Plan to the Council.

16. The Council firmly believes that lessons learned from past experiences, and concrete steps in a few specific countries are needed to inform the Action Plan and future policies. The Council therefore calls for an analysis focusing on countries where ESDP missions and operations are being planned or conducted or where CFSP, Community and bilateral Member State activities are being conducted, with a view to finding ways to improve the sequencing and coordination of EU activities. This should be done with due regard for the EU Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour in Development Policy. This work should start in 2008 and be reported to the Council in a timely manner.

17. Finally, the Council believes that future work on security and development should include a more detailed approach to the development perspective of security challenges, dialogue processes (political dialogue, mediation, human rights promotion, governance, democracy support), DDR and the inter-linkages with SSR, the security and development implications of climate change, environmental and natural resource management issues and migration, as well as aspects related to financing. In this context, particular attention should be paid to African-led peace support operations, without prejudice to initiatives in other regions.'

EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTERNAL ACTION – THE JOINT EU-AFRICA STRATEGY

The Council held its annual policy debate on the effectiveness of EU external action, which this year focused on implications for the EU's development cooperation policy of the joint EU-Africa strategy and action plan, which are due to be finalised at an EU-Africa ministerial meeting in Sharm-El-Sheik on 4-5 December, and adopted at the EU-Africa summit in Lisbon on 8-9 December.

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a paper prepared by the presidency that highlights the following issues:

- ▶ consequences of the new joint strategy and action plan from the perspective of development ministers;
- ▶ the synergies to be established regarding the institutional framework and financial instruments for development cooperation policy;
- ▶ the promotion of policy coherence to ensure an integrated and global vision of the EU-Africa dialogue.

Since it was first mooted by the European Council at Evian in July 2000, the annual policy debate has served to review the coherence of the Union's external policies and assistance, to consider how the effectiveness of EU external action might be enhanced and to propose guidelines for the year ahead.

(...)

Meeting of the Defence Ministers

Brussels, 19 November 2007

(...)

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

European Defence Agency

- ▶ Since we last met, the Agency has been working in a productive manner; we have proceeded to set up the Agency even before the new Treaty arrangements are in place; now we have to make full use of our potential;
- ▶ Today's decisions by the Steering Board enable us to do this; I am delighted that ministers have agreed today to raise the budget to EUR 32 million for 2008, up EUR 10 million from this year. They also adopted the Agency's work programme for 2008, a joint Strategy on Defence Research and Technology investment and a set of benchmarks to guide spending. With these agreements, we are very well placed to equip our armed forces for their crisis-management missions under the European Security and Defence Policy and make them fit for the challenges of the 21st century. The Agency represents very good value for money and deserves all our support.

Capacités militaires

- ▶ Je pense que l'approbation du Catalogue de progrès aujourd'hui constitue une étape décisive du processus de développement capacitaire militaire dans le cadre de l'Objectif Global 2010;
- ▶ Je voudrais souligner la somme d'efforts consentis par les Etats membres pour ces travaux menés pendant plusieurs présidences successives, et couronnés de succès pendant la présidence portugaise. Permettez-moi aussi de mettre en avant la qualité de l'interaction entre le Comité militaire et de l'Agence européenne de défense;
- ▶ Je sais que les Etats membres continueront ces efforts et mettront à profit toutes les occasions de coopération permettant de renforcer les capacités militaires de l'Union européenne. Nous le savons, sans des décisions nationales d'investissement à court, moyen et long termes, aucun des progrès que nous appelons tous de nos vœux ne pourra être accompli;
- ▶ Enfin je voudrais saluer le travail accompli sur la capacité de réaction rapide. Les travaux dans les domaines maritime et aérien, et la révision à venir de notre concept de réaction rapide en sont des éléments clés. De même, les travaux sur la standardisation de la préparation des Groupements tactiques (Battlegroups) nous permettront également d'améliorer cette capacité cruciale pour l'Union européenne.

Rapport sur la capacité de planification au niveau stratégique de l'EMUE

- ▶ Suite au mandat que vous m'avez donné en mai j'ai confié à notre Etat major militaire une analyse des besoins et des solutions possibles afin d'être en mesure de répondre à vos attentes pour renforcer la capacité de planification stratégique et l'EMUE. Il s'agit de soutenir le proces-

sus décisionnel, y compris national, et de vous permettre d'évaluer vos contributions de force potentielles sur la base d'une planification au niveau stratégique suffisamment détaillée;

► Cette analyse et les travaux conduits dans le domaine militaire me permettent aujourd'hui de venir vers vous avec des propositions concrètes que nous devons mettre en œuvre dès que possible;

EU OPERATIONS

Bosnia and Herzegovina: EUFOR Althea

► I am very concerned at the deterioration of the political climate in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Current difficulties include the rhetoric of some BiH political leaders, delays in the reform process, problems with the functioning of state institutions, the resignation of the Chair of the Council of Ministers and delays in implementing the EU reform agenda;

► We must maintain a consistent line that reminds the political leadership in BiH of their obligations to uphold the constitutional order of BiH. Police reform is a key condition for moving on; The so-called Mostar Declaration is a very welcome first step but we now need to see it translated into concrete proposals; I appeal to everybody to do the maximum to see this declaration implemented in specific terms;

► Against this political background, it is all the more important to have a strong EU presence in BiH to promote the country's EU perspective. There is no alternative. BiH public opinion is on our side - they want the EU and they want progress;

► I want to stress that the security situation remains stable; the political and the security situations are largely disconnected;

► EUFOR-Althea continues to contribute to ensuring a safe and secure environment and to provide reassurance to the population. Following its reconfiguration earlier this year, EUFOR remains credible and visible; any future development would be on the basis of a shared analysis of the political situation;

EUFOR Tchad/RCA / Soudan

Aspects politiques

► Les défis au niveau régional persistent, notamment en ce qui concerne les négociations de paix au Darfour ainsi que certains problèmes avec le déploiement de la force hybride Nations Unies/Union Africaine. A Khartoum, la crise gouvernementale autour de la mise en œuvre du Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) complique les choses d'avantage;

► C'est d'autant plus important de créer un dynamique positive en ce qui concerne les déplacés et les réfugiés au Tchad et en République Centrale Africaine (RCA). Il faut montrer qu'une sortie réelle de cette crise est possible. L'Union Européenne travaille dans ce sens, en étroite partenariat avec les Nations Unies et les autorités tchadiennes et centrafricaines;

Opération EUFOR Tchad / République Centrale Africaine

► La planification de l'opération EUFOR Tchad/RCA progresse et je salue les offres de contributions exprimées jusqu'à présent pour l'opération; Nous devons maintenant déployer tous nos efforts pour pouvoir lancer l'opération dans le calendrier envisagé, et finaliser la génération de forces; j'appelle aux contributions et à la solidarité;

- ▶ J'encourage donc les Etats Membres à contribuer lors de la conférence de génération de forces prévue le 21 novembre, autrement le lancement de la mission ne pourra respecter les délais prévus et le déploiement de la force des Nations Unies (MINURCAT) sera retardé d'autant;
- ▶ We have stated our political ambitions; now we must ensure that they are matched by our ability to deliver.

EU-NATO relations – Ministers of Defence discussion over lunch

- ▶ The EU and NATO are cooperating well, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- ▶ We also need to work together, on the basis of strong cooperation, where the EU conducts civilian crisis-management operations. This is crucial in Kosovo and for EUPOL Afghanistan.

EU MINISTERS ADOPT FRAMEWORK FOR JOINT EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON DEFENCE R&T

European Union governments today adopted the framework for a joint Strategy on Defence Research & Technology describing why and how they intend to invest collectively on technologies that are crucial for future military capabilities and industrial capacities in Europe.

EU Defence Ministers, meeting as the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency, agreed on the objectives and methods for achieving a better collective performance from national defence R&T budgets. This further strengthens the foundations of European defence, following the adoption last May of a Strategy for Europe's Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).

'Investing in the right technology is critical for the future of European defence and the Strategy is exactly in line with the absolute requirement for us to spend more, spend better and spend more together,' said Javier Solana, the Head of the EDA, who chaired the meeting.

'Thanks to a great deal of work by the Agency and our Member States, we can now see clearly what needs to be done and how we are going to do it,' he added.

Within this framework Member States will define what technological and industrial capabilities they want to develop and strengthen in Europe by their R&T investments and how these investments can be harmonised and provide the best equipment for the armed forces to fulfil their crisis-management missions under the European Security and Defence Policy.

The framework lays out both the "Ends" for the strategy – for example, preparing a list of key technologies to invest in – as well as the "Means" to deliver them, such as different forms of collaboration, technology watch and coordination with other European R&T organisations. The Agency was tasked to report on progress, including the list of technologies in spring 2008.

In a further effort to improve overall EU performance on defence, ministers approved four benchmarks to increase investment for future needs and to encourage collaborative spending:

- ▶ Equipment procurement (incl. R&D/R&T): 20% of defence spending (currently 19.4%)
- ▶ European collaborative equipment procurement: 35% of equipment procurement expenditure (currently 21%)
- ▶ Defence R&T: 2% of defence spending (currently 1.2%)
- ▶ European collaborative defence R&T: 20% of defence R&T expenditure (currently 10%).

‘These are collective benchmarks – applying to the combined spending of all of the Agency’s 26 participating Member States – and they are voluntary,’ Solana said. ‘But annual monitoring by the Agency will support the Member States’ efforts to transform Europe’s armed forces together.’

On other matters, the Steering Board approved the Agency’s work programme and budget for 2008. The budget of € 32 million, compared with € 22 in 2007, includes € 6 million earmarked for work on Unmanned Air Vehicles which can be spent only after a further decision by the Steering Board.

The work programme adds a long-term strategy to boost the number of cooperative programmes on Armaments to the existing strategies for Capabilities Development, the EDTIB and R&T. Major initiatives include looking for new Joint Investment Programmes in defence R&T, using the model pioneered this year for Force Protection, and further work on a more open and competitive European Defence Equipment Market.

‘Today’s decisions have put in place further building blocks for our common work of making Europe’s armed forces and military budgets fit for the challenges of the 21st century which we must face together,’ said Alexander Weis, attending his first ministerial Steering Board since taking over as EDA Chief Executive.

‘Approval of the R&T strategy, benchmarks, work programme and budget show the confidence of Member States in our agenda and we look forward to working with them to deliver on it,’ he added.

ANNEX I – EUROPEAN DEFENCE DATA – 2006

All data are collective figures referring to the 26 EDA participating Member States in aggregate¹

GENERAL

- ▶ total defence expenditure: € 200 billion (compared to 2005: + 3%)
- ▶ total defence expenditure as percentage of total Gross Domestic Product: 1.78% (2005: 1.81%)
- ▶ total defence expenditure per capita: € 412 (+2%)

PERSONNEL

- ▶ total military personnel: 1.94 million (-1%)
- ▶ total civilian personnel: 485,000 (-2%)
- ▶ personnel expenditure: € 110 billion or 55% of total defence expenditure

INVESTMENT

- ▶ equipment procurement, incl. R&D/R&T: € 38.7 billion or 19.4% of total defence expenditure
- ▶ defence R&T expenditure: € 2.5 billion or 1.24% of total defence expenditure
- ▶ investment per soldier: € 19,997

OPERATIONAL COSTS

- ▶ Operations & Maintenance: € 43.3 billion or 21% of total defence expenditure
- ▶ Incremental costs for Crisis Management Operations: € 6.6 billion or 3% of total defence expenditure

EUROPEAN COLLABORATION

- ▶ European collaborative equipment procurement: € 6.1 billion or 21% of total equipment procurement
- ▶ European collaborative defence R&T: € 239 million or 10% of total defence R&T expenditure

DEPLOYABILITY

- ▶ Average number of troops deployed throughout the year: 97,800

For more data: see the EDA website, section Defence Fact.

1. All EU members except Denmark are EDA participating Member States. Comparisons with 2005 data exclude Bulgaria and Romania (not participating Member States of EDA in 2005).

EUROPEAN DEFENCE EXPENDITURE IN 2006

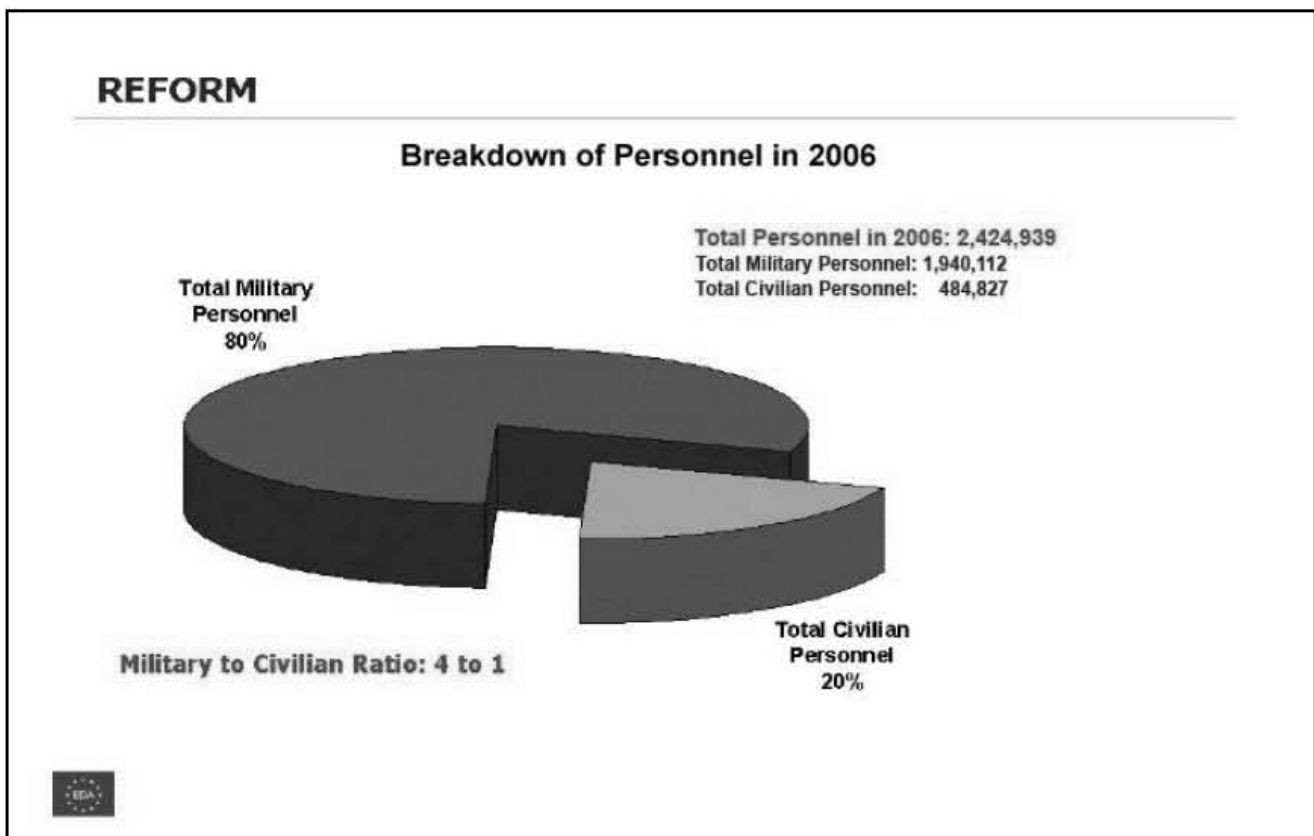
In November 2007 the EDA published for the second time comprehensive data on European Defence Expenditure^(*), showing that in 2006, the 26 EDA participating Member States spent €201 Billion on Defence.

European Defence Expenditure Data - General

Total Defence Expenditure	€ 201 Billion
Defence Expenditure as a % of GDP	1,78%
Defence Expenditure as a % of Government Expenditure	3,80%
Defence Expenditure Per Capita	€ 412

(*) All EU Member States except Denmark participate in the EDA. As EDA collects data from its 26 participating members these are on occasion subject to revisions and refinement, therefore we advise you to check back in order to ensure you have the most up to date data.

European Defence Expenditure Data - Reform	
Military Personnel	€ 1,940,112
Civil Personnel	€ 484,827
Defence Spending per Soldier	€ 103,602
Investment (Equipment Procurement and R&D) per Soldier	€ 20,002
Military Personnel: Authorised strengths of all active military personnel; includes non-MOD personnel in uniform who can operate under military command and can be deployed outside national territory.	



European Defence Expenditure Data - Reform

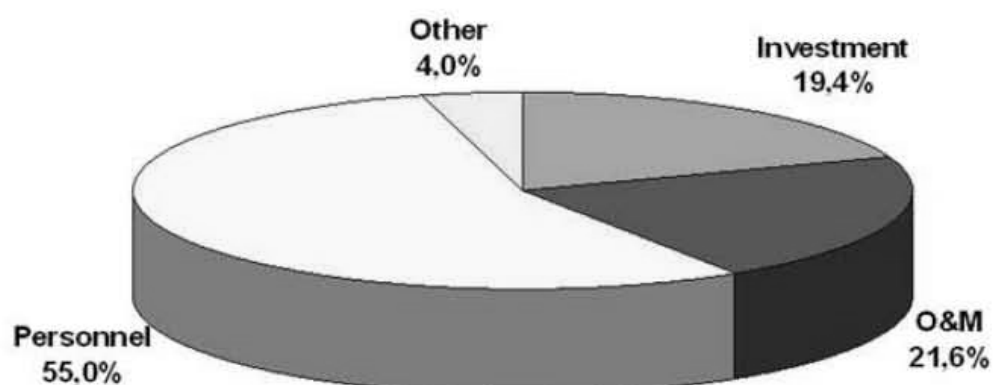
Personnel	€ 110 Billion
Investment (Equip. Proc. including R&D/R&T)	€ 38,8 Billion
Operations and Maintenance	€ 43,3 Billion
Other (Includes Infrastructure & Construction)	€ 8,9 Billion

Personnel: Pay and allowances paid to: military personnel; civilian personnel. Pensions – only if paid directly by the government (MoD or other State-owned institution) to: retired military personnel; retired civilian employees.

O&M: expenditure covering supplies of ammunition and explosives, petroleum products, spare parts for O&M of major equipment, other equipment and supplies (to military personnel or units, excluding major equipment), rents for real estate as well as expenditure for utilities, maintenance of infrastructure and other general administrative expenses.

REFORM

Defence Spending Breakdown in 2006



European Defence Expenditure Data - Reform

Investment Breakdown

Equipment Procurement	€ 29,1 Billion
R&D	€ 9,7 Billion
R&T (Subset of R&D)	€ 2,6 Billion

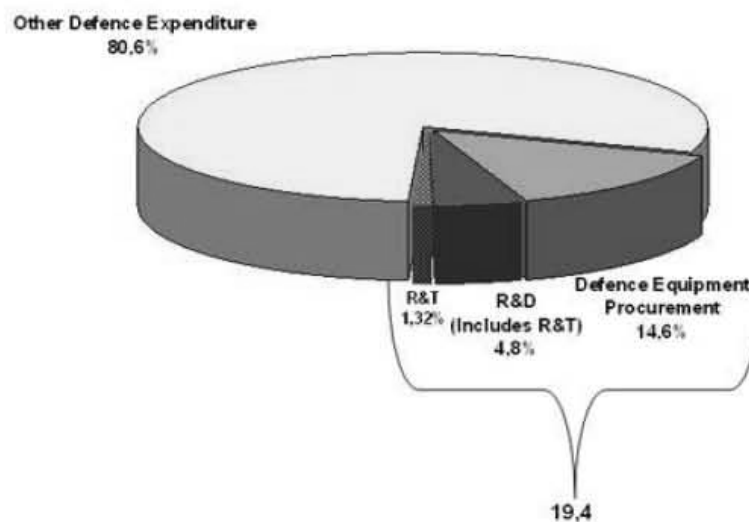
Equipment Procurement: expenditure includes expenditure for all major equipment categories (missile systems, missiles, aircrafts, artillery, combat vehicles, engineering equipment, weapons and small arms, transport vehicles, ships and harbour craft, electronic and communications equipment, etc.), that are not included in O&M spending.

R&D: Any R&D programmes up to the point where expenditure for production of equipment starts to be incurred.

R&T (Subset of R&D): expenditure for basic research, applied research and technology demonstration for defence purposes.

REFORM

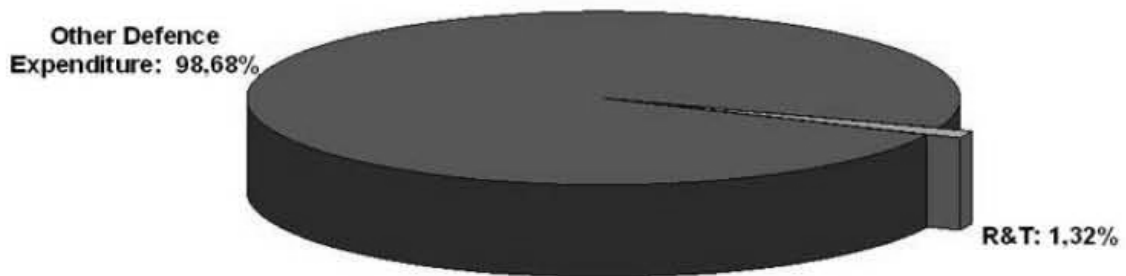
Defence Investment in 2006 (Equipment Procurement and R&D)



REFORM

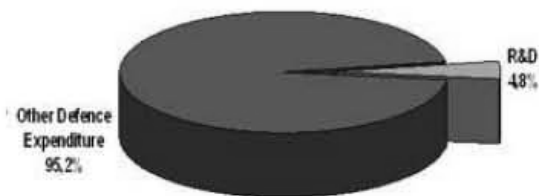
R&T Spend as a Percentage of Defence Expenditure in 2006

R&T: €2,6 bn
Other Defence Expenditure: €198,4 bn

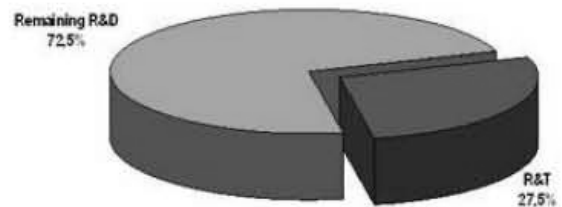


REFORM

R&D Spending as a Percentage of Total Defence Spending in 2006

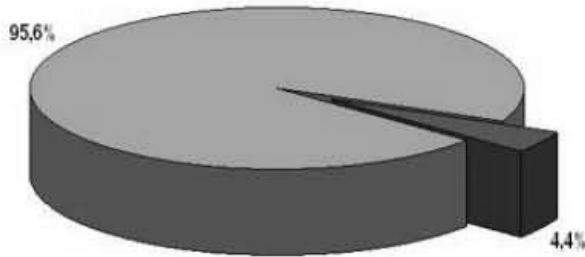


R&T as a Percentage of R&D in 2006



REFORM

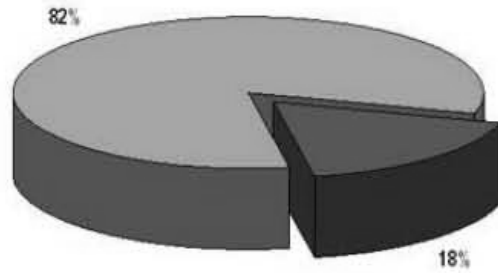
Defence R&T Spend - Top Six Spenders



■ Top Six Defence R&T Spenders
 ■ Remaining 20 Defence R&T Spenders



Defence R&T Spend - Top Three Spenders

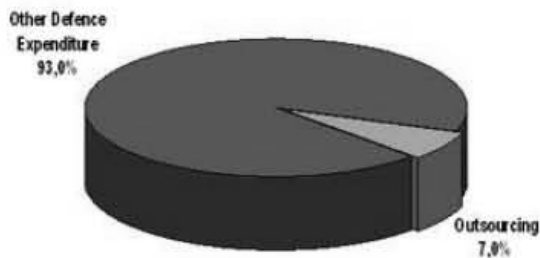


■ Top Three Defence R&T Spenders
 ■ Remaining 23 Defence R&T Spenders

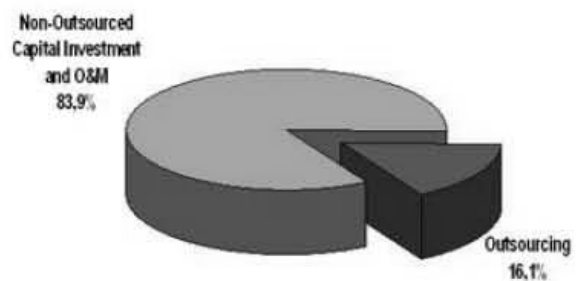
REFORM

Total Outsourcing: €14,1 Billion

Outsourcing as a Share of Total Defence Expenditure in 2006



Outsourcing as a share of Capital Investment* and O&M in 2006



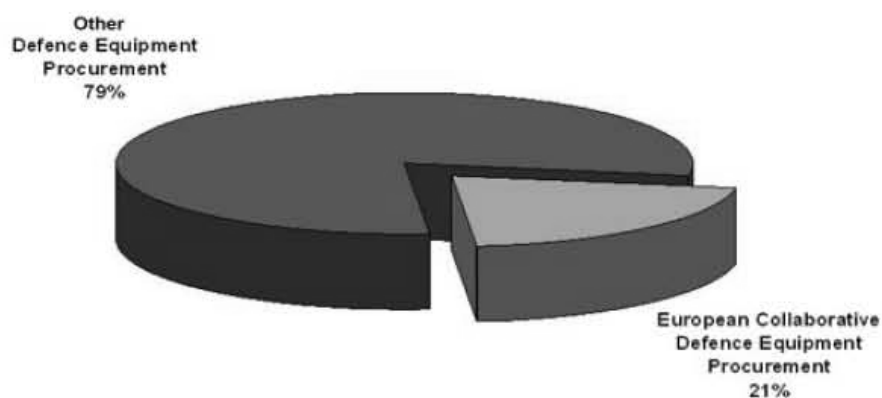
*Capital Investment is the total of Equipment Procurement, R&D (including R&T) and Infrastructure/Construction

Collaboration - Defence Equipment Procurement	
Collaborative Defence Equipment Procurement	€ 6662 Million
European Collaborative Defence Equipment Procurement	€ 6078 Million
Collaborative Defence Equipment Procurement out of Total Procurement	23%
European Collaboration out of Collaborative Procurement	91%
<p>Collaboration: Agreement by at least two Ministries of Defence for project or programme contracts.</p> <p>European Collaboration: Subset of Collaboration; agreement by at least two EU Member States Ministries of Defence for project or programme contracts. Possible non-EU partners share in such contracts is lower than 50%.</p>	

COLLABORATION - DEFENCE EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

European Collaborative Equipment Procurement in 2006

Total Defence Equipment Procurement: € 29,1 Billion

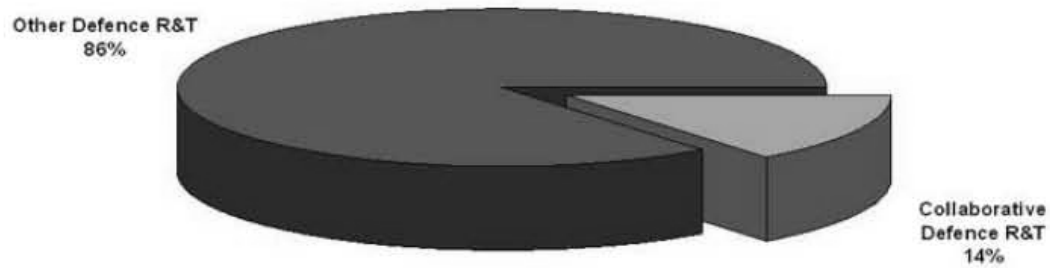


Collaboration - R&T	
Collaborative R&T	€ 385 Million
European Collaborative R&T	€ 254 Million
Collaborative R&T out of Total R&T	14,5%
European Collaborative R&T out of Collaborative R&T	66,1%

COLLABORATION - R&T

Collaborative R&T Spend in 2006

Total 2006 R&T Spend: € 2,6 Billion



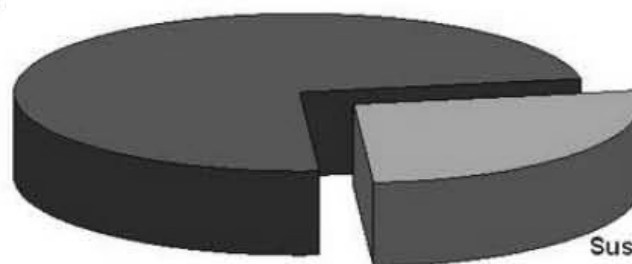
Deployability	
Average number of troops deployed	98,000
Deployable (Land) Forces	378,200
Sustainable (Land) Forces	100,900
Average Number of troops deployed out of pMS Military Personnel	5%
<p>Average number of troops deployed = Average number of troops deployed throughout the year by all 26 EDA Participating Member States (All forces).</p> <p>Deployable (Land) Forces = (Land) Forces troops prepared for deployed operations (the NATO 40% target).</p> <p>Sustainable (Land) Forces = (Land) Forces troops undertaking or planned for sustained operations (the NATO 8% target).</p>	

DEPLOYABILITY

Sustainable Forces out of Deployable (Land) Forces: 2006

Ratio: 1:3

Remaining
Deployable (Land)
Forces
73%



Sustainable (Land)
Forces
27%



Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference 2007

Brussels, 19 November 2007

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

1. Civilian crisis management is an important tool under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and the overall role of civilian crisis management in the European Union's support for international peace and security continues to grow. ESDP has expanded its action far and wide (from Western Balkans to South Caucasus, Africa, the Middle East and Asia), and it has greatly diversified in the substance of operations (strengthening actions in Police and the wider Rule of Law sector, including Security Sector Reform (SSR), monitoring borders and peace agreements).
2. As ESDP ventures further afield and diversifies in its tasks and missions, including possible substitution missions, a need develops for a growing body of crisis management capabilities, and for the EU to be able to use all available means to respond coherently to the whole spectrum of crisis management tasks.
3. Ministers welcome the opportunity to meet in a Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference on 19 November 2007 and to review the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 (CHG 2008) process on the basis of a Final Report. They note that the CHG 2008 has been completed and that it has successfully guided the EU's planning and development of those civilian capabilities necessary to improve the EU's ability to fulfil the ambitions set out in the European Security Strategy. But there remains scope for further and more focused action.
4. Ministers therefore agree to approve the new Civilian Headline Goal 2010 (CHG 2010) which will be launched on 1st January 2008. This CHG 2010 builds on the results of the CHG 2008 and on the growing body of EU crisis management experience, in particular on lessons learned from the numerous civilian ESDP missions.
5. Ministers underline that the CHG 2010 should help ensure that the EU can conduct crisis management, in line with the European Security Strategy, by deploying civilian crisis management capabilities of high quality, with the support functions and equipment required in a short time-span in sufficient quantity.
6. More specifically, Ministers acknowledge that the new CHG should help ensure that:
 - ▶ Sufficient numbers of well-qualified personnel are available across the civilian ESDP priority areas and for mission support, to enable the EU to establish a coherent civilian presence on the ground where crisis situations require it to do so;
 - ▶ ESDP capabilities such as planning and conduct capabilities, equipment, procedures, training and concepts are developed and strengthened according to need;
 - ▶ The EU is able to use all its available means, including civilian and military ESDP, European Community instruments and synergies with the third pillar, to respond coherently to the whole spectrum of tasks occurring in a crisis management context;
 - ▶ The development of civilian capabilities is given increased political visibility at EU as well as at Member State's level.
 - ▶ The EU strengthens its co-ordination and co-operation with external actors as appropriate and in full respect of EU's autonomous decision-making.
7. Ministers also stress the need to identify and exploit synergies between civilian and military ESDP, European Community, as well as third pillar actors, with a view to maximizing

coherence in the field as well as at Brussels level. Issues such as field security, training, logistics and procurement should be taken into account.

8. Ministers note that a common stock-taking event on civilian and military ESDP capabilities, as well as capabilities available to the European Community, will be organised towards the end of the CHG 2010.

9. Ministers express their appreciation for third-states' previous contributions and invite them to offer new contributions for the CHG 2010, as supplementary capabilities to the EU overall capacity.

10. Ministers stress the importance of reviewing and updating regularly Member States capabilities as well as their availability.

CIVILIAN HEADLINE GOAL 2010

(approved by the ministerial Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference and noted by the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 19 November 2007 – doc. 14823/07)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Civilian crisis management is an important tool under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The overall role of civilian crisis management in the European Union's support for international peace and security continues to grow. ESDP has expanded its action far and wide (from Western Balkans to South Caucasus, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia), and it has greatly diversified in the substance of operations (strengthening actions in Police and the wider Rule of Law sector, monitoring borders and peace agreements). In particular, there has been a growing demand for Security Sector Reform (SSR).

2. As ESDP ventures further afield and diversifies in its tasks and missions, there is a continuous need to develop a body of crisis management capabilities, and to ensure that the EU uses all available means to respond coherently to the whole spectrum of crisis management tasks, including in a substitution scenario. Under the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 (CHG 2008), important and groundbreaking work has been done in this respect (as set out in detail in the Final Report on CHG 2008¹). But there is scope for further and more focused action. EU Ministers have therefore decided to adopt a new Civilian Headline Goal.

II. AMBITIONS

3. The new Civilian Headline Goal is to be achieved by end 2010. It aims at improving the EU's civilian capability to respond effectively to crisis management tasks. Building on the results of the CHG 2008 and on the growing body of ESDP crisis management experience, the CHG 2010 should help to ensure that the EU can conduct crisis management, in line with the European Security Strategy, by deploying civilian crisis management capabilities of high quality, with the support functions and equipment required in a short time-span and in sufficient quantity. More specifically, the CHG 2010 should help to ensure that:

– Sufficient numbers of well-qualified personnel are available across the civilian ESDP priority areas and for mission support, to enable the EU to establish a coherent civilian presence on the ground where crisis situations require it to do so;

- ESDP capabilities such as planning and conduct capabilities, equipment, procedures, training and concepts are developed and strengthened according to need. One of the results will be that missions have adequate equipment and logistics and other enabling capabilities, including for effective procurement procedures;
- The EU is able to use all its available means, including civilian and military ESDP, European Community instruments and synergies with the third pillar, to respond coherently to the whole spectrum of crisis management tasks;
- The development of civilian capabilities is given increased political visibility at EU as well as at Member States' level;
- The EU strengthens its co-ordination and co-operation with external actors as appropriate.

III. OBJECTIVES

4. The EU should establish a clear illustrative framework for civilian capability planning and development, drawing on civilian ESDP mission experience and informed assessment of the expected most urgent threats and challenges, and set capability targets accordingly. The list of required capabilities established under the CHG 2008 should serve as a first reference. Additional ESDP capabilities, including concepts, planning and conduct capabilities, equipment and training should also be taken into consideration.

Improving quality

5. Work on new civilian ESDP capabilities that has begun under the CHG 2008 should be followed up under the CHG 2010. Scope for immediate action has already been identified as concerns, e.g.:

- A robust and systematic lessons-learned process;
- Where new ESDP capabilities are required, action should be launched to define new concepts and/or procedures accordingly. As regards new categories of personnel, action should also involve the creation of new training opportunities and venues, as necessary;
- Improved arrangements for timely and accurate support to missions, procurement, security and logistics as well as development of structures and personnel for procurement prior to ESDP deployment;
- Improving field security, including intelligence where relevant;
- Further development of the interface between Police and the wider Rule of Law sector;
- Further development, in line with agreed concepts, of rapidly deployable police elements, notably Integrated Police Units and Formed Police Units (IPU and FPU), including the creation of a European training dimension for IPU and FPU, coherent and in line with the overall ESDP training approach;
- An evaluation of the functioning of the Civilian Response Teams (CRT), completion of the CRT pool of experts and the identification and implementation of concrete steps for improving the CRT system and making it more operational;
- The mainstreaming of Human Rights and gender issues into concepts and conduct of the CHG 2010 process.

6. The targeting of training efforts to operational needs is key to improving the quality of the EU civilian crisis management capability. Co-ordination and targeting of training efforts should therefore be considerably enhanced across the board, involving Member States, the

European Commission and the Council Secretariat, and taking into account experiences of International Organisations, non-EU States and Non-governmental Organisations.

Enhancing availability

7. Member States should, on the basis of requirements identified, be invited to review regularly their potential availability to contribute to ESDP missions. Tools facilitating the above should be developed under the CHG 2010.
8. Updated relevant information on civilian ESDP, including background and requirements for past, ongoing and upcoming missions should be made widely available.
9. The raising of secondable civilian personnel for ESDP, which under the CHG 2008 received particular attention, should continue to be covered under the CHG 2010. The involvement in civilian ESDP of key national stakeholders, notably in Police and the wider Rule of Law sector, should be expanded.

Developing instruments

10. There is scope for the development of practical/technological applications in order further to support and improve the ability of the EU to plan and conduct missions in all the phases of action. Work should be carried forward, notably on:
 - The Civilian Capability Management Tool (development of which started under the CHG 2008);
 - Information Exchange Requirements (integrated inter-service civilian-military project ongoing);
 - A civilian lessons-learned process (development of management mechanism);
 - Improving mission security (personnel protection) including intelligence capability within civilian ESDP missions where relevant.

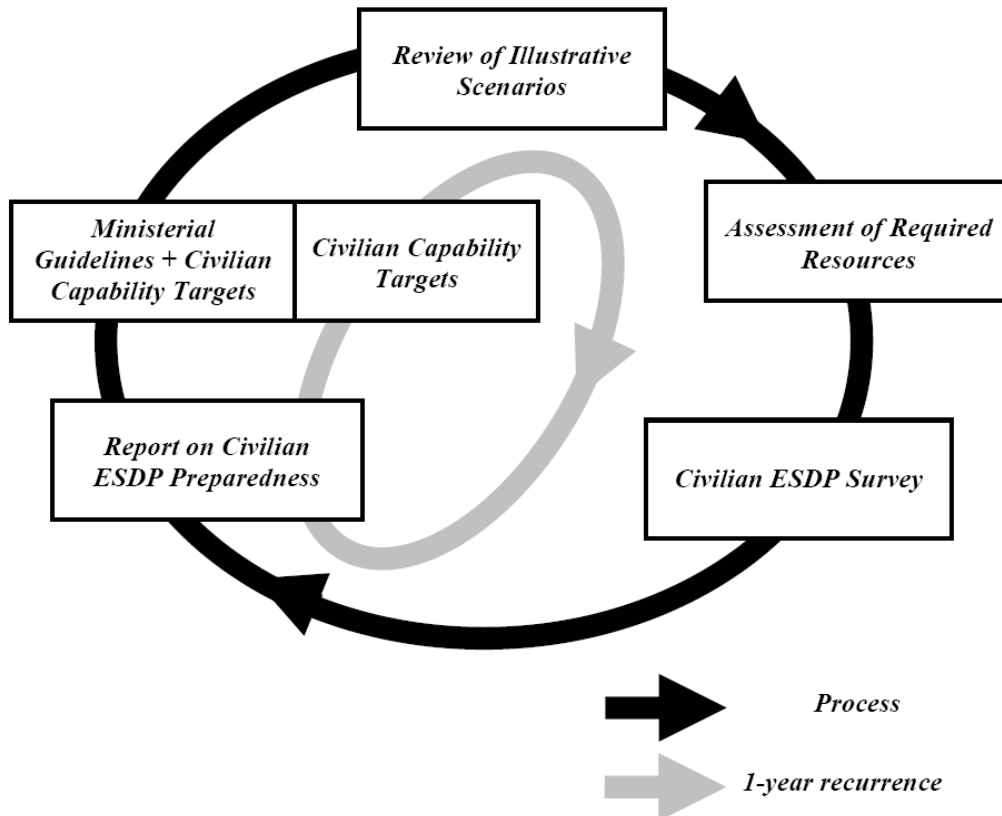
Achieving synergies

11. Synergies relevant to crisis management capabilities should be identified and fully exploited between civilian and military ESDP, European Community, as well as third pillar actors, with a view to maximizing coherence in the field as well as at Brussels level. Issues such as field security, training, logistics and procurement should be taken into account. Scope for immediate action has already been identified as concerns the tentative establishment of a common illustrative scenario, e.g. on SSR.
12. A common stock-taking event on civilian and military ESDP capabilities, as well as capabilities available to the European Community, should be organized towards the end of CHG 2010.
13. Synergies with third-pillar actors (Article 36 Committee and EU bodies such as EUROPOL and EUROJUST) should be further explored. This co-ordination with third-pillar actors should include the EU Police Chiefs Task Force.
14. The CHG 2010 should identify and exploit possible synergies with other actors in civilian crisis management, which include International Organisations, Regional Organisations and other major actors, e.g. non-EU States and civil society through Non-governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations, in line with agreed principles and in full respect of the EU's autonomous decision-making. Contributions of non-EU actors are to be considered as supplementary to the overall EU capacity rather than as an integral part thereof.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

15. The CHG 2010 is a living process, open to adjustment on lessons learned from operations, new circumstances, and relevant EU legislative and institutional developments.

16. A Civilian ESDP Capability Planning Process has been agreed (see diagram below)¹. On the basis of this guidance, the CHG 2010 will start in 2008 with work to review illustrative scenarios, assess required capabilities and survey civilian capabilities.



This will inform the report to Ministers on civilian ESDP preparedness in November 2008, covering the status of available resources for ESDP civilian crisis management in Member States; progress in the coherent use of the EU's crisis management tools; assessment of the capacity of the EU civilian crisis management structures (e.g. for planning and conduct of operations, security, procurement, finance); status of implementation of last Ministerial Guidelines/Civilian Capability Targets.

17. Thereafter, the two phases already carried out for the first time in 2008 will be repeated, namely the 'Report on Civilian Preparedness' in October 2009 and the 'Civilian Capability Targets' in November 2009. In the following years up to 2010, the phases will follow each other as envisaged by the new Civilian ESDP Capability Planning Process.

1. Doc. 14763/07 I/A Item Note – Policy Paper on a Civilian ESDP Capability Planning Process.

18. Ministers will hold a yearly conference to assess the state of play, monitor progress and guide future efforts in the field of civilian ESDP. Ministerial Guidelines will be issued at the end of the CHG 2010 process.

Annex - Calendar for the implementation of the CHG 2010 process

Review of Illustrative Scenarios	←→ Jan-mid Apr		
Assessment of Required Resources	←→ mid Apr-May		
ESDP Civilian Survey	←→ Jun-Sep		
Report on ESDP Civilian Preparedness	←→ Nov	←→ Oct	←→ Oct
Ministerial Guidelines/ Civilian Capability Targets	←→ Nov (Targets only)	←→ Nov (Targets only)	←→ Nov (Targets+M.Guidelines)
	2008	2009	2010

EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 19 November 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/749/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION (EUPM) IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BIH)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and, in particular, Article 14 and the third subparagraph of Article 25 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 24 November 2005 the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/824/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)⁽¹⁾. That Joint Action expires on 31 December 2007.
- (2) In a letter of invitation of 19 September 2007, the authorities of BiH invited the European Union to extend the EUPM in BiH.
- (3) In a letter of 22 October 2007 the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP (SG/HR) sent a positive reply to the BiH authorities' letter of invitation.
- (4) On 18 June 2007, the Council approved Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management. These Guidelines notably provide that a Civilian Operation Commander will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations, under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the overall authority of the SG/HR. These Guidelines further provide that the Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) established within the Council Secretariat will, for each civilian crisis management operation, be the Civilian Operation Commander.
- (5) The above-mentioned Command and Control Structure is without prejudice to the contractual responsibilities of the Head of Mission towards the Commission for implementing the budget of the EUPM.
- (6) The mandate of EUPM will be implemented in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could harm the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy as set out in Article 11 of the Treaty.
- (7) The watch-keeping capability established within the Council Secretariat should be activated for the EUPM, HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Mission

1. The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), established by Joint Action 2002/210/CFSP⁽²⁾ and continued by Joint Action 2005/824/CFSP, shall be continued from 1 January 2008.
2. The EUPM shall operate in accordance with the objectives and other provisions as contained in the mission statement set out in Article 2.

(1) OJ L 307, 25.11.2005, p. 55.

(2) OJ L 70, 13.3.2002, p. 1. Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2005/143/CFSP (OJ L 48, 19.2.2005, p. 46).

Article 2

Mission statement

The EUPM, in coordination with and under the local political guidance of the European Union Special Representative in BiH (EUSR) and as part of the broader rule of law approach in BiH and in the region, shall aim, through mentoring, monitoring and inspecting, to establish in BiH a sustainable, professional and multi-ethnic police service operating in accordance with European and international standards.

This police service shall operate in accordance with commitments made as part of the Stabilisation and Association Process with the European Union, in particular with regard to the fight against organised crime and police reform.

The EUPM shall operate in line with the general objectives of Annex 11 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its objectives shall be supported by European Community instruments. The EUPM shall continue to lead the coordination of the policing aspects of the ESDP efforts in the fight against organised crime, without prejudice to the agreed chains of command. The EUPM shall assist local authorities in planning and conducting major and organised crime investigations, in contributing to an improved functioning of the whole criminal justice system in general and enhancing police-prosecutor relations in particular. The EUPM shall, together with the European Commission, assist BiH authorities to identify remaining police development needs which could be addressed through Community assistance.

Article 3

Review

A six-monthly review process, in accordance with the assessment criteria set out in the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and the Operation Plan (OPLAN) and taking into account developments in police reform, shall enable adjustments to be made to the EUPM's activities, as necessary.

Article 4

Structure

1. The EUPM shall be structured as follows:
 - (a) main headquarters in Sarajevo, composed of the Head of the Mission and staff as defined in the OPLAN;
 - (b) co-locations within the various BiH police services at senior level, including within the State Investigation and Protection Agency, the BiH Border Police, Interpol/EUROPOL Bureau, Entities, Public Security Centres, Cantons, and the Brcko district.
2. These elements shall be developed in the CONOPS and the OPLAN. The Council shall approve the CONOPS and the OPLAN.

Article 5

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for the EUPM.
2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall exercise command and control of the EUPM 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 seconding State or EU institution. National authorities shall transfer Operational Control (OPCON) 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.
6. The Civilian Operation Commander and the EUSR shall consult each other as required.

Article 6

Head of Mission

1. The Head of Mission shall assume responsibility and exercise command and control of the EUPM 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 EUPM.
3. The Head of Mission shall issue instructions to all EUPM staff for the effective conduct of the EUPM in theatre, assuming its day-to-day management and the coordination of EUPM activities, following the instructions at strategic level of the Civilian Operation Commander.
4. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the implementation of the EUPM'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 the EUPM in the operations area and shall ensure its appropriate visibility.
7. The Head of Mission shall coordinate, as appropriate, with other actors on the ground. The Head of Mission shall, without prejudice to the chain of command, receive local political guidance from the EUSR.

Article 7

EUPM Staff

1. The numbers and competence of the EUPM staff shall be consistent with the mission statement set out in Article 2 and the structure set out in Article 4.
2. Police officers shall be seconded by Member States. Each Member State shall bear the costs related to the police officers seconded by it, including salaries, allowances and travel expenses to and from BiH.
3. International civilian staff and local staff shall be recruited on a contractual basis by the EUPM, as required.
4. Member States or EU institutions may also second international civilian staff if required, for a minimum period of one year. Each Member State or EU institution shall bear the costs related to any of the staff seconded by it, including salaries, allowances and travel expenses to and from BiH.

5. All staff shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the EUPM. 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⁾ (hereinafter referred to as 'Council's security regulations').

Article 8

Status of EUPM staff

1. The necessary arrangements shall be made regarding the continuation of the Agreement between the EU and BiH of 4 October 2002 on the activities of the EUPM in BiH for the duration of the EUPM.
2. The Member State or EU institution having seconded a staff member shall be responsible for answering any claims linked to the secondment, from or concerning the staff member. The Member State or EU institution in question shall be responsible for bringing any action against the seconded person.
3. The conditions of employment and the rights and obligations of international and local contracted staff shall be laid down in the contracts between the Head of Mission/Police Commissioner and the staff member.

Article 9

Chain of command

1. The EUPM 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 EUPM.
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 the EUPM 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 EUPM at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.

Article 10

Political control and strategic direction

1. The PSC shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council, political control and strategic direction of the EUPM. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions for this purpose in accordance with Article 25 of the Treaty. This authorisation shall include the powers to amend the OPLAN. It shall also include powers to take subsequent decisions regarding the appointment or extension of the Head of Mission. The powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the EUPM shall remain vested in the Council.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. 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. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).

Article 11

Participation of third States

1. Without prejudice to the decision-making autonomy of the Union and its single institutional framework, third States may be invited to contribute to the EUPM on the basis that they bear the cost of sending the police officers and/or the international civilian staff seconded by them, including salaries, allowances and travel expenses to and from BiH, and contribute to the running costs of the EUPM, as appropriate.
2. Third States making contributions to the EUPM shall have the same rights and obligations in terms of day-to-day management of the operation as Member States taking part in the operation.
3. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions on acceptance of the proposed contributions and to establish a Committee of Contributors.
4. Detailed arrangements regarding the participation of third States shall be subject to agreements to be concluded in accordance with procedures laid down in Article 24 of the Treaty.

Article 12

Financial arrangements

1. The budgets for the years 2008 and 2009 shall be decided on an annual basis.
2. The expenditure of the EUPM 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. Nationals of third States participating financially in the EUPM and of the host country shall be allowed to tender for contracts.
3. The Head of Mission/Police Commissioner shall report fully to, and be supervised by, the Commission on the activities undertaken in the framework of his contract.
4. The financial arrangements shall respect the operational requirements of the EUPM.
5. Expenditure shall be eligible as of the date of entry into force of this Joint Action.

Article 13

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 the EUPM in accordance with Articles 5 and 9, in coordination with the Security Office of the General Secretariat of the Council.
2. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the security of the EUPM and for ensuring compliance with minimum security requirements applicable to the EUPM, in line with the policy of the European Union on the security of personnel deployed outside the European Union in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty and its supporting documents.
3. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Senior Mission Security Officer (SMSO), who will report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the Security Office of the General Secretariat of the Council.
4. The Head of Mission shall appoint Area Security Officers in the four regional co-locations, who, under the authority of the SMSO, shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of all security aspects of the respective EUPM elements.
5. EUPM staff shall undergo mandatory security training before their entry into function, in accordance with the OPLAN. They shall also receive regular in-theatre refresher training organized by the SMSO.

Article 14

Community action

1. The Council and the Commission shall, each in accordance with their respective powers, ensure consistency between the implementation of this Joint Action and the external activities of the Community in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 3 of the Treaty. The Council and the Commission shall cooperate to this end.
2. The Council notes that coordination arrangements already exist in the EUPM area as well as in Brussels.

Article 15

Release of classified information

1. The SG/HR is hereby authorised to release to third States associated with this Joint Action, as appropriate and in accordance with the operational needs of the EUPM, EU classified information and documents up to the level 'RESTREINT UE' generated for the purposes of the EUPM, in accordance with the Council's security regulations.
2. In the event of a specific and immediate operational need, the SG/HR is also hereby authorised to release to the local authorities EU classified information and documents up to the level 'RESTREINT UE' generated for the purposes of the EUPM, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. In all other cases, such information and documents shall be released to the local authorities in accordance with the procedures appropriate to their level of cooperation with the European Union.
3. The SG/HR is hereby authorised to release to third States associated with this Joint Action and to the local authorities EU non-classified documents related to the deliberations of the Council with regard to the EUPM covered by the obligation of professional secrecy pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure⁽¹⁾.

Article 16

Watch-keeping capability

The watch-keeping capability shall be activated for the EUPM.

Article 17

Entry into force and duration

This Joint Action shall enter into force on 1 January 2008.
It shall apply until 31 December 2009.

Article 18

Publication

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

Done at Brussels, 19 November 2007.

For the Council

The President

L. Amado

(1) Council Decision 2006/683/EC, Euratom of 15 September 2006 adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure (OJ L 285, 16.10.2006, p. 47). Decision amended by Decision 2007/4/EC, Euratom (OJ L 1, 4.1.2007, p. 9).

North Korea – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 19 November 2007

ACTS ADOPTED UNDER TITLE V OF THE EU TREATY COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/753/CFSP ON SUPPORT FOR IAEA MONITORING AND VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU STRATEGY AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 December 2003, the European Council adopted the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction; Chapter III of the Strategy contains a list of measures to combat such proliferation which need to be taken both within the European Union and in third countries.
- (2) The European Union is actively implementing the Strategy and is giving effect to the measures listed in Chapter III thereof, in particular by releasing financial resources to support specific projects conducted by multilateral institutions, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
- (3) The European Union has repeatedly called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to comply with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to implement its comprehensive safeguards agreement in full cooperation with the IAEA.
- (4) The European Union has continuously supported efforts in the framework of the six-party talks, aimed at finding a diplomatic solution to the nuclear situation on the Korean peninsula, including through political and financial support for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO). In the same spirit, the European Union welcomed the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 and the Initial Actions of 13 February 2007.
- (5) On 9 July 2007, the Board of Governors of the IAEA authorised its Director-General to implement ad hoc arrangements for monitoring and verifying the shutdown of nuclear installations in the DPRK, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the IAEA report to the Board of Governors.
- (6) In accordance with the Initial Actions of 13 February 2007, the DPRK proceeded in July 2007 with the shutdown of nuclear installations and has invited the IAEA to monitor the shutdown. Subsequently, this shutdown has been confirmed by the IAEA.
- (7) The European Union has welcomed this action carried out by the DPRK as a very important first step on the way to the dismantlement of the DPRK's nuclear programmes and the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.
- (8) Since the costs incurred by the implementation of the ad hoc arrangements can currently not be covered by the regular safeguards budget of the IAEA, there is a need to make sufficient

extra-budgetary contributions in order to allow for the implementation of the ad hoc arrangements, as long as there is no provision in the regular IAEA budget,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

For the purposes of giving immediate and practical implementation to some elements of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the European Union shall support the IAEA monitoring and verification activities, which are carried out in accordance with existing arrangements for monitoring and verification, as agreed between the DPRK and the IAEA, in order to further the following objectives:

- (a) to contribute to the confidence-building process aimed at the elimination of the DPRK's nuclear programme, through the continuation of monitoring and verification of the shut-down of DPRK nuclear facilities;
- (b) to assure the European Union's continued active involvement in efforts to develop a diplomatic solution to the Korean nuclear issue;
- (c) to make sure that the IAEA has available sufficient financial resources to carry out monitoring and verification activities relating to the implementation of the Initial Actions of 13 February 2007, agreed in the framework of the six-party talks.

The contribution by the EU will be used for the financing of staff resources and travel, equipment and transportation, rental of premises in the DPRK and related expenditure, as well as costs for communications and acquisition of information technology.

A detailed description of these activities is set out in the Annex.

Article 2

1. The Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General of the Council/High Representative for the CFSP (SG/HR), shall be responsible for the implementation of this Joint Action. The Commission shall be fully associated.
2. The technical implementation of the activities referred to in Article 1 shall be carried out by the IAEA. It shall perform this task under the control of the SG/HR, assisting the Presidency. For this purpose, the SG/HR shall enter into the necessary arrangements with IAEA.
3. The Presidency, the SG/HR and the Commission shall keep each other regularly informed about the implementation of this Joint Action, in conformity with their respective competences.

Article 3

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the activities referred to in Article 1 shall be EUR 1 780 000 to be funded from the general budget of the European Union.
2. The expenditure financed by the amount stipulated in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the Community procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union.
3. The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 2, which shall take the form of a grant. For this purpose, it shall conclude a financing agreement with the IAEA. The financing agreement shall stipulate that the IAEA is to ensure visibility of the EU contribution, appropriate to its size.

4. The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the financing agreement referred to in paragraph 3 within three months after the entry into force of this Joint Action. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of the financing agreement.

Article 4

The Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Joint Action on the basis of reports prepared by the IAEA Secretariat for the IAEA Board of Governors, which will be submitted to the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR. The Commission shall be fully associated. It shall report on the financial aspects of the implementation of this Joint Action.

Article 5

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.
It shall expire 18 months after its adoption.

Article 6

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

Done at Brussels, 19 November 2007.

For the Council

The President

L. Amado

ANNEX – EU SUPPORT FOR IAEA MONITORING AND VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU STRATEGY AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

1. Description of IAEA monitoring and verification activities in the DPRK

In March 2007, the Director-General of the IAEA informed its Board of Governors that on 13 February 2007 the Parties to the Six-Party Talks agreed in Beijing, China, on Initial Actions for the implementation of the Joint Statement issued by them on 19 September 2005. He also informed the Board of Governors that on 23 February 2007 he had received an invitation from the DPRK to visit the DPRK to ‘develop the relations between the DPRK and the IAEA, as well as to discuss problems of mutual concerns’. In the Initial Actions the Parties agreed, *inter alia*, that the DPRK ‘will shut down and seal, for the purpose of eventual abandonment, the Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility, and invite back IAEA personnel to conduct all necessary monitoring and verifications as agreed between IAEA and the DPRK’. The Board of Governors welcomed the agreement on the Initial Actions and expressed the view that a successfully negotiated settlement of this long-standing issue, maintaining the essential verification role of the IAEA, would be a significant accomplishment for international peace and security. In this regard, the Board of Governors welcomed the invitation extended to the Director-General by the DPRK to visit the DPRK.

The Director-General visited the DPRK on 13 and 14 March 2007 and reported to the Board of Governors in June 2007 on the results of his visit. The Board of Governors, while emphasising the importance of continued dialogue for achieving a peaceful and comprehensive resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue and early denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, welcomed the Director-General’s visit to the DPRK and his discussions with DPRK officials which had focused on re-establishing the relationship between the DPRK and the IAEA.

On 16 June 2007 the Director-General received an invitation from the DPRK to send an IAEA team to discuss procedural matters related to the monitoring and verification arrangement on the shutdown of the Yongbyon nuclear facility. This letter and the Director-General’s reply thereto, dated 18 June 2007, were circulated to the Board of Governors.

An IAEA team, headed by the Deputy Director-General for Safeguards, visited the DPRK during the period 26 to 29 June 2007. The team visited the Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Plant, the 5 MW(e) Experimental Nuclear Power Plant, the Radiochemical Laboratory (reprocessing plant) and the 50 MW(e) Nuclear Power Plant (under construction), all of which are located at Yongbyon. The DPRK informed the team that these facilities, and the 200 MW(e) Nuclear Power Plant (under construction), which is located in Taechon, would be shut down and sealed pursuant to the Initial Actions.

During the visit of the IAEA team to the DPRK, understanding was reached on the following arrangement:

- (a) the IAEA will receive from the DPRK a list of facilities that have been shut down and/or sealed, and subsequently the IAEA will be kept informed of their status with a view to monitoring and verifying the shutdown and/or sealing of the declared facilities;
- (b) the IAEA will have access to all facilities and equipment that have been shut down and/or

sealed for the purpose of its monitoring and verification activities;

- (c) the IAEA will install, and service as necessary, appropriate containment and surveillance and other devices to monitor and verify the status of the shutdown and/or sealed facilities and equipment. If containment and surveillance measures cannot be applied for practical reasons, the IAEA and the DPRK will agree on the implementation of other appropriate verification measures;
- (d) the IAEA will examine and verify information on the design of the shutdown and/or sealed facilities and document the status of these facilities photographically or through video recordings. Re-verification of such information will be performed periodically;
- (e) the IAEA will be informed in advance if the DPRK intends to change the design and/or status of facilities and equipment, so that consultations can be held with the DPRK about the impact such changes may have on the IAEA's monitoring and verification work;
- (f) the IAEA will be informed in advance if the DPRK intends to move or remove any nuclear-related equipment or other essential equipment or components from the shutdown nuclear facilities or decommission any of these facilities. The IAEA will be provided appropriate access to verify such equipment, components, and/or activities;
- (g) the DPRK will maintain all records relevant to the IAEA's monitoring and verification activities;
- (h) the IAEA will be provided with the necessary visas for IAEA personnel, and will be extended the same privileges and immunities as those set out in the relevant provisions of the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (INFCIRC/9/Rev.2) for IAEA property, funds and assets, its personnel and other officials in exercising their functions under this arrangement;
- (i) the IAEA will be provided with full information on the health and safety procedures at the relevant facilities;
- (j) the IAEA and the DPRK will consult on issues related to the costs of implementation;
- (k) the above measures will be subject to periodic review by the DPRK and the IAEA.

The IAEA is authorised in accordance with Article III.A.5 of its Statute to '... apply safeguards, at the request of the parties, to any bilateral or multilateral arrangement, or at the request of a State, to any of that State's activities in the field of atomic energy'. This authorisation does not require the State to be a member of the IAEA and does not prescribe a particular form or substance for safeguards arrangements. The monitoring and verification in the DPRK will therefore be consistent with the Statute. At this stage such monitoring and verification will be implemented in accordance with the ad hoc arrangements referred to in recital (5) of the Joint Action.

The monitoring and verification activities in the DPRK were not foreseen and therefore there is no provision for the conduct of such monitoring and verification in the IAEA's current budget or the proposed budgets for the 2008-2009 biennium. The estimated costs to cover these activities are EUR 2,2 million for 2007 and 2008, respectively, based on the current arrangements for monitoring and verification between DPRK and IAEA. However, in the light of progress made in the six-party-talks process and a possible increased role for the IAEA in the monitoring and verification of understandings reached, the need for additional financial means could arise in the future.

2. Objectives

IAEA monitoring and verification remains an indispensable tool for building confidence among States with regard to nuclear non-proliferation undertakings, and for advancing the peaceful use of nuclear material.

Overall objective and project purpose:

- ▶ to contribute to the implementation of monitoring and verification activities in the DPRK, in accordance with the Initial Actions of 13 February 2007, as agreed in the framework of the six-party-talks.

Project results:

- ▶ continued monitoring and verification by the IAEA of the shutdown of the abovementioned nuclear installations in the DPRK.

3. Duration

The total estimated duration for the implementation of this Joint Action is 18 months.

4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiary of this Joint Action is the IAEA.

5. Implementing entity

The IAEA will be entrusted with the implementation of the project. The project will be implemented directly by the IAEA, namely by the staff from the IAEA Department of Safeguards. In the case of contractors, the procurement of any goods, works or services by the IAEA in the context of this Joint Action will be carried out in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures of the IAEA, as detailed in the European Community Contribution Agreement with the IAEA.

The implementing entity will prepare reports on the basis of information provided to the IAEA Board of Governors.

These reports will be submitted to the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR for the CFSP.

6. Third-party participants

There will be no third party participants.

Kosovo – Troika Press Statement

Brussels, 20 November 2007

The U.S./EU/Russia negotiating Troika met in Brussels on November 20 with delegations from Kosovo and Serbia to discuss Kosovo's future status. The Belgrade delegation was led by President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and included inter alia Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic. The Pristina delegation was led by President Fatmir Sejdiu and included Prime Minister Agim Ceku, President of the Assembly Kole Berisha, Hashim Thaci, Veton Surroi, Blerim Shala and Skender Hyseni.

The Troika facilitated several hours of direct dialogue between the parties and also met separately with each side to explore further the parties' positions and the Troika's observations on the negotiations to date. For its part, Pristina described its vision of Kosovo's supervised independence in line with the recommendations of UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari. Belgrade continued to elaborate to Pristina its vision of a highly autonomous Kosovo inside the borders of Serbia.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from making acts or statements that could undermine the security situation in Kosovo.

The Troika will next meet with the parties in Baden (Austria) on November 26-28.

The Troika reminded both parties that the Troika process will be concluded by the Contact Group reporting to the UN Secretary General by 10 December 2007. The Troika reaffirmed its commitment to make a vigorous effort to reach an agreement between the parties.

Annual Conference of the Institute for Security Studies of the European Union – Speech by Javier Solana

Paris, 22 November 2007

Seul le prononcé fait foi

I am delighted to speak, once again, at the Annual Conference of the European Union's Institute for Security Studies. This annual conference is a special event. A key moment for people from the world of ideas and the world of politics to come together. And discuss the state of the European Union and the geopolitical landscape around us.

Since May this year, the Institute has had a new Director, Álvaro de Vasconcelos. I am sure that in the years ahead the Institute will continue to play a central role in the broader debate on Europe's global role. In so doing, he will be able to build on the terrific work of Nicole Gnesotto.

Dear friends,

Perhaps the greatest difficulty of today's world is that we don't know how to frame it. Unlike the Cold War and despite 9/11, there is no single organising principle. Many trends are happening at the same time, often contradictory in character.

During the Cold War, as we all well know, we had a system of two blocks, which competed politically, economically and ideologically. The balance of power of this bipolar system imposed international order and stability.

Some people sometimes express 'Cold War nostalgia'. I don't. For I also remember the grave dangers of that period. And the high price that some, especially in the Communist world, paid for the stability of the overall system.

During the immediate post-Cold War period we thought we had three 'zones': one of stability, one of transition and one of turmoil. After 1989, there was huge optimism. And a conviction that eventually all countries would enter the zone of stability, democracy and prosperity. A linear view of world politics was dominant. But today we know that is not true either. Sometimes countries that seem stable, fall back into violent conflict.

More importantly, all three zones overlap and co-exist at the same time, sometimes on the same territory. Because of migration, internet and satellite TV, distant and troubled parts of the world exist within our own city centres. The opposite is also true. You can find micro-islands of modernity and stability in seas of conflict.

Today's world is not 'per se' more dangerous. But I do think it is more complex. No wonder many of our citizens seem confused. In helping us to make sense of this global puzzle, this Institute can play a key role.

We must get better at pooling our knowledge. Across Europe, plenty of brilliant people analyse the state of our confusing world. But often that work takes place in isolation, without much coordination of research agendas. In a way, everyone is scratching the same bit of the surface. There is not enough cross-fertilisation.

I see today's annual conference also as an opportunity to help to shape something that Europe badly needs: a genuine strategic community.

If we step back and look at the international scene, what do we see? Let me share three basic observations.

1. In our globalized world, we see an integration of markets and a disintegration of politics;
2. Power is shifting away, within and between political systems; and
3. We are seeing the emergence of a new relationship between sovereignty and responsibility.

Regarding the first point: globalisation remains the dominant force shaping our world. But there is a contrast between the integration of markets and the disintegration of politics. Trade, investment and financial flows continue to grow and operate at a global level. The dominant story is one of rising interdependence and economic integration.

But if you look at the world politically, you see strong centrifugal forces: across the Middle East, parts of Africa and elsewhere. So there is no unstoppable trend towards a triumphant triptych of markets, democracy and human rights. There is no ‘End of History’.

Yes, more and more countries are free and democratic. And, yes, in many places people are asserting their rights and longing for accountable government. But not all our values are universally shared. And not all we hold dear is universally admired.

For instance, globalisation means that non-Western forms of capitalism are flourishing. But this is also true in political and ideological terms. Many people admire China’s astounding economic growth rate. But not only that. There is also a recognition for, and fascination with, the fact that China has achieved both stability and economic progress with a political system that is different from ours.

Let there be no misunderstanding. I do not believe we should stop asserting and defending our values. In Europe we have had to fight long and hard for these rights. But we must be aware of the weight of history and culture and try to understand ‘the other’. And we do need to realise that demographic trends make us a minority in an ever-expanding world.

This leads me to my second observation:

Power is shifting away. Within political systems, power is shifting to markets, the media and non-governmental organisations. Between political systems, it is shifting from the West to China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico etc.

It is timely and right that this conference is entitled ‘Engaging with the new global players’. To tackle the new issues in this new political context, we must bring together new constellations of actors. This means making space at the top table of global politics: the G-8, the UN but also in various contact groups.

But it also means systematically involving non-state actors when we plan and execute policies. We need to do so for reasons of both effectiveness and legitimacy. Going beyond a government-centric world view, dominated by the West, is what 21st century diplomacy will demand.

Thirdly, I see a new relationship emerging between sovereignty and responsibility. Increasingly, sovereignty is no longer seen as absolute but as conditional. The core idea behind responsible sovereignty is that with rights come responsibilities. Towards other states but also your own citizens.

States are responsible for actions that spill over borders and affect or threaten others. Take climate change: all of us are affected by the emission of greenhouse gasses, wherever they occur. Or take human rights: repression often leads to conflicts which affect regional and global security.

Therefore, states have a duty to protect core human rights. In case of breach, others have the Responsibility to Protect.

Of course, some countries – not just developing ones by the way – remain attached to absolute definitions of sovereignty and the principle of non-interference. But the Responsibility to Protect has been accepted, at least in principle, at the 2005 UN Summit. And it is worth noting that the concept of responsible sovereignty comes not from Europe but Africa.

More importantly, responsible sovereignty can help us to form much-needed bargains on clusters such as human rights, conflicts and migration; or terrorism and development; or non-proliferation and disarmament. In each case we will have to forge bargains with a growing number of actors, based on shared interests. That is always going to be hard. But somewhat easier if interests are defined through a prism where rights and responsibilities come together.

Dans ce contexte général, quelle doit être la réponse européenne ?

Je pense que, dans les prochaines années, l'Union européenne devra relever trois grands défis.

- ▶ Le premier sera de mieux aider le système multilatéral à gagner en efficacité.
- ▶ Le deuxième consistera à davantage agir à l'extérieur sur la base des intérêts proprement européens.
- ▶ Le troisième sera de réussir à mieux projeter vers le reste du monde le système de valeurs qui caractérise si bien les Européens.

Aucun de ces trois objectifs ne sera facile à atteindre. Mais plus que jamais le monde nous impose d'agir.

Premier objectif donc : soutenir une plus grande efficacité du multilatéralisme. Nous n'avons pas le choix : sans règles de droit respectées, c'est la jungle. Sur la scène internationale, s'il y a consensus à leur égard, ces règles sont la meilleure garantie pour tous les États, y compris les plus forts.

Prenons le cas iranien, un grand pays avec un grand peuple. Nul besoin de vous répéter combien le problème est grave. L'Iran affirme que son programme porte sur l'installation de 20.000 Megawatts de puissance nucléaire. Mais mis à part un accord conclu avec la Russie, portant sur une seule centrale nucléaire et avec du combustible fourni par la Russie, l'Iran n'a signé aucun autre accord. Et il n'a fait aucune démarche en vue de la construction de la quinzaine de centrales nucléaires nécessaires à l'ambition énergétique qu'il affiche.

En clair, l'Iran essaie d'enrichir de l'uranium. Mais un peu comme si on tentait de fabriquer sa propre essence avant même d'avoir acheté une voiture et de savoir conduire. Il y a donc là un sérieux problème de confiance. Aggravé par la dissimulation de certaines activités passées.

Seule une solution multilatérale peut permettre de sortir de cette crise. Aujourd'hui l'Union européenne est la mieux placée pour engager la réflexion nécessaire et faire des propositions concrètes. Depuis un certain temps, circule l'idée de centres internationaux d'enrichissement sous surveillance multilatérale. Essayons donc de l'approfondir !

Le deuxième défi consistera pour l'Union à mieux agir à l'extérieur sur la base d'intérêts proprement européens. Dans toute construction humaine, l'intérêt général ne se résume pas à la simple addition des intérêts individuels. C'est la même chose pour l'Union européenne.

Les intérêts européens sont ceux-là même des États-membres. Mais avec ce petit quelque

chose en plus qui caractérise notre projet : le désir de vivre en paix et en sécurité ensemble, avec si possible la capacité à générer autour de nous et au-delà ce même désir.

Prenons les relations de l'Union européenne avec la Russie. Pour l'Union, la Russie représente simultanément deux réalités : elle est notre voisin le plus important; mais elle est aussi un partenaire stratégique – nous ne pourrions en effet résoudre complètement la question du Kosovo ou le conflit du Moyen Orient sans sa coopération.

Logiquement, nous devons agir en juxtaposant une série de paramètres et d'intérêts particuliers, mais aussi en définissant plus précisément quels sont les intérêts de l'Union en tant que telle vis-à-vis de la Russie. Ainsi il me semble évident, par exemple, que la question de la relation énergétique ne peut pas être vue seulement au travers de la question du voisinage.

La solidarité n'est pas que la prise en considération d'intérêts particuliers; elle est aussi question d'intérêt général. Dans un proche avenir, nous allons avoir la chance de mieux nous organiser pour relever ces défis. C'est le sens même du nouveau Traité. Le monde nous impose une approche globale.

Le Traité va nous permettre de mieux nous mettre en ordre de marche : en unifiant la représentation extérieure de l'Union et en rationalisant l'utilisation des moyens qui sont les siens. Là encore, il ne faut pas négliger la complexité de l'entreprise. Il ne faut attendre aucun « big bang ». Il faut au contraire voir le temps comme un allié naturel.

Parce qu'il faudra composer avec 27 histoires et 27 géographies particulières. Parce que le consensus restera la base de notre action commune. Mais au final nous pourrions mieux assumer nos responsabilités et défendre nos intérêts. À question globale, solution globale. Et c'est précisément là où la valeur ajoutée de l'Union prend tout son sens.

Troisième défi: mieux projeter vers le reste du monde le système de valeurs qui caractérise si bien les Européens.

Toute politique extérieure doit se fonder sur des intérêts, mais aussi des valeurs. C'est tout particulièrement vrai dans le cas de l'Union européenne. Il ne serait pas crédible que notre politique extérieure ne soit pas fondée sur nos propres valeurs; mais il ne serait pas sage de négliger que la projection de nos valeurs ne va pas sans poser de problèmes à l'extérieur.

En effet, nous ne pouvons pas tenir pour acquis que le reste du monde, c'est-à-dire la majeure partie de l'humanité, considère que nos valeurs sont aussi les siennes. Assumer et projeter nos valeurs tout en restant conscients de l'existence d'une altérité, voilà la clef.

Pensez au Tribunal pénal international et à l'abolition de la peine de mort. Dans les deux cas, l'idée de départ, aux Nations Unies, est européenne; elle est accueillie avec scepticisme, voire avec hostilité; plusieurs années sont nécessaires pour que les choses avancent; nous négocions avec tout le monde, y compris avec les adversaires de l'initiative.

Mais finalement sans renoncer à l'essentiel, dans les deux cas, nous parvenons à un accord sur des textes, sur des règles internationales, à leur signature par les pays les uns après les autres. Ce sont ces mêmes valeurs qui gouvernent les efforts déployés dans le cadre de nos opérations militaires et civiles, en Ituri ou en Bosnie hier, au Tchad ou au Kosovo demain.

À question globale, solution globale, mais à un problème local complexe, réponse élaborée et de préférence « taillée sur mesure ». La carte des missions déjà déployées, de Rafah à Kaboul et Pristina, notamment, donnent l'ampleur de la tâche. Dans notre jargon, nous parlons d'opérations « PESD autonomes ou sous Berlin Plus ».

Mais dans la réalité il s'agit bel et bien de prévention et de règlement de conflits, anciens ou

nouveaux, de lutte contre les trafics en tout genre, voire de lutte contre le terrorisme. Et ce donc, conformément à nos intérêts et dans le respect des valeurs qui sont les nôtres.

*

Rien de facile à accomplir, vous le constaterez.

L'équation est complexe en effet : servir les Européens et l'Union elle-même dans un monde en mutation perpétuelle, et dont la majeure partie, qui n'est pas européenne, revendique une place et une reconnaissance nouvelles.

Mais l'Europe conserve cette capacité unique à faire la différence et à aider ce nouveau monde à gagner en justice et en sécurité.

J'en ai la conviction.

Je vous remercie.

EUJUST LEX IRAQ – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 22 November 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/760/CFSP AMENDING AND EXTENDING JOINT ACTION 2005/190/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 for Iraq, EUJUST LEX⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 25 September 2007, the Political and Security Committee (hereinafter referred to as ‘PSC’) agreed that EUJUST LEX should be extended for another 18 months after the expiry of the existing mandate on 31 December 2007, until 30 June 2009. This Joint Action should cover the first phase of this extension until 30 April 2008.
- (3) On 18 June 2007, the Council approved Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management. These Guidelines notably provide that a Civilian Operation Commander will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP (hereinafter referred to as ‘SG/HR’). These Guidelines further provide that the Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) established within the Council Secretariat will, for each civilian crisis management operation, be the Civilian Operation Commander.
- (4) The abovementioned Command and Control Structure is without prejudice to the contractual responsibilities of the Head of Mission towards the Commission for implementing the budget of the Mission.
- (5) The watch-keeping capability established within the Council Secretariat should be activated for this Mission.
- (6) Joint Action 2005/190/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2005/190/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. the following Article shall be inserted:

‘Article 3a

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for EUJUST LEX.

(1) OJ L 62, 9.3.2005, p. 37. Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2006/708/CFSP (OJ L 291, 21.10.2006, p. 43).’

2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the 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 (OPCON) 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.';

2. Article 4 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 4

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.';

3. Article 6(4) shall be replaced by the following:

'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 (*).

4. Article 8 shall be replaced by the following:

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 provide the political control and strategic direction of EUJUST LEX.

(*) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).'

3. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall be 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.’;

5. Article 9 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 9

Political control and strategic direction

1. The PSC shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council, 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 on the European Union. This authorisation shall include the powers to amend the CONOPS and the OPLAN. It shall also include powers to take subsequent 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.

2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.

3. 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.’;

6. Article 10 shall be replaced by the following:

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 3a and 8 and in coordination with the Security Office of the General Secretariat of the Council (hereinafter referred to as “GSC 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 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 LEX staff members shall undergo mandatory security training organised by the GSC Security Office and medical checks prior to any deployment or travel to Iraq.

9. Member States shall endeavour to provide EUJUST LEX, in particular the Liaison Office, with secure accommodation, body armour and close protection within Iraq.’;

7. the following Article shall be inserted:

‘Article 13a

Watch-keeping

The watch-keeping capability shall be activated for EUJUST LEX.’;

8. the second subparagraph of Article 14 shall be replaced by the following:

‘It shall expire on 30 April 2008.’.

Article 2

The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the mission for the period 1 November 2006 to 30 April 2008 shall be EUR 11,2 million.

Article 3

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

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels, 22 November 2007.

For the Council

The President

M. Pinho

Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement

Washington, 26 November 2007

The Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – met today in Washington to discuss the situation in the Middle East ahead of the upcoming Annapolis Conference. They were joined by Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

The Quartet expressed strong support for the November 27 Annapolis Conference. It welcomed the commitment of the Israeli and Palestinians leaders to launch bilateral negotiations toward the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza and the realization of Israeli-Palestinian peace. This reflects the results of months of work by the parties and by the Quartet, including the Quartet's engagement with members of the Arab League Follow-Up Committee to expand the circle of support for peace. The Quartet welcomed the parties' continuing efforts to fulfill their respective commitments under Phase One of the Roadmap and urged the international community to provide robust support for all the parties' efforts. Principals took note of the broad international support for the Annapolis Conference, and looked forward to the December Paris Donors' Conference to muster international financial backing for efforts to build the foundation for a viable and prosperous Palestinian state. The Quartet agreed to remain closely involved, and to that end will meet again in December, and looks forward to inviting members of the Arab League Follow-Up Committee to attend.

The Quartet affirmed its commitment to seize this opportunity to mobilize international support to achieve meaningful progress towards a just and lasting negotiated settlement to this conflict, and ultimately a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Middle East – Annapolis Conference

Annapolis, 27 November 2007

SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

I am very pleased to be here today. I would like to thank the efforts of President Bush and the determination of Secretary Rice, and to pay tribute to the courage of President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert in achieving this moment of hope and opportunity.

Agreement of the parties to launch final status negotiations with the aim of completing these by the end of 2008 is a remarkable achievement.

This is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss. Now is the moment for all of us to step up and take our responsibilities. I have been very closely involved in previous attempts to achieve peace between Palestinians and Israel. We must learn from past disappointments. Time is not on our side.

Ultimately, it is up to the two parties to make this process work. But the sustained support and involvement of the international community will be essential in order to create the momentum to keep today's achievements on track and avoid them being blown off course by occasional crises.

Genuine efforts to reach the ultimate political objective of a settlement of the conflict cannot succeed without parallel steps to improve the situation on the ground. Progress towards peace also means urgent improvements in security, in movement and access and in the Palestinian economy. We need to see immediate steps from both sides towards full implementation of commitments under Phase 1 of the Roadmap.

The European Union looks forward to being closely involved in all aspects of the post-Annapolis period. The EU is also ready to accompany this new momentum in a determined fashion:

- through our role in the Quartet;
- through the deployment of EU missions on the ground;
- through our position as the largest donor to the Palestinians;
- and through the constructive involvement of many of our Member States.

The EU is prepared not only to continue its involvement, but to shape it and step it up in support of a new, substantive and credible process.

To this end, the EU has approved a plan designed to make the EU's role more creative, more positive and more ambitious as engagement between the parties deepens and starts to deliver results.

The EU Action Plan addresses both short-term and long-term issues. Our short-term aim is to help address security and law and order, allowing greater freedom of movement for people and goods, and leading to increased economic activity. This would be complemented by technical assistance to economic and fiscal governance and assistance to the private sector.

In the longer-term, our plan would address broader capacity building in order to support the transition from rehabilitation to post-conflict development. We are also looking at the potential EU contribution to the resolution of final status issues.

The forthcoming donors' conference in Paris is also a vital part of the next steps that will have to be taken if we want to keep up the momentum. It is crucial to the implementation of

Prime Minister Fayyad's Reform and Development Plan, and also to the credibility and sustainability of the political process as a whole. The EU is committed to the success of the Paris Conference where we will be outlining our future support for the Palestinians.

We particularly welcome the decision of the Arab League countries to support this meeting and to attend at ministerial level. Through their decision to relaunch the Arab Peace Initiative and through their support for President Abbas, they have played a central role in bringing us all here today.

The Arab partners will also play a vital role in the achievement of peace between Israelis and Palestinians as a first step towards a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

We look forward to staying in close touch with Arab partners in the post-Annapolis phase including through regular meetings of the Quartet with the Arab League follow-up committee.

STATEBUILDING FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: AN EU ACTION STRATEGY

NEW MOMENTUM IN THE PEACE PROCESS

Recent developments have created a sense of cautious optimism for progress towards resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert are engaged in a substantive and wide-ranging bilateral dialogue. The United States Government is actively supporting their efforts, including by calling for an international meeting before the end of the year, in order to launch a bilateral negotiation process that would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. The new momentum in the peace process benefits from the full backing and active involvement of the Quartet. Arab support has been expressed through the voice of the Arab League follow-up Committee.

Comprehensive peace in the Middle East is a strategic objective for the European Union. Any lasting and just settlement to the conflict should be based on the principle of land for peace, relevant UNSC resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative, the Roadmap and previous agreements reached between the parties.

The EU considers that the present opportunity should not be missed and is ready to take its responsibilities, in accordance with the vital European interests involved. The EU is therefore committed to supporting current efforts in a serious and substantive way, offering a comprehensive and coherent contribution to the process, including during the crucial implementation period.

The European Union calls on all other interested parties to support the current process, bearing in mind the high cost of failure for everyone involved.

The forthcoming international meeting in Annapolis should launch a bilateral negotiation between Israel and the Palestinians on final status issues, as a first step towards a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It should establish a robust follow-up process under the auspices of the Quartet and with the involvement of the international community.

The EU calls on its Quartet, Arab League and other international partners to contribute to the success of the upcoming donors conference in Paris, which will constitute an indispensable complement to the political process launched at Annapolis.

To accompany a **credible political process** the European Union commits to:

- ▶ Support the Parties in their bilateral efforts;

- ▶ Support the US Government in its current facilitation efforts;
- ▶ Ensure the active involvement of the Quartet in the run-up to the international meeting and in its follow-up;
- ▶ Continue cooperation with Arab partners in advancing the Arab Peace Initiative.
- ▶ Sustain its high levels of support to the region and accompany the political process with a shift to post-conflict support in due time.

SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO A SUBSTANTIVE PROCESS

Only an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state can be a reliable neighbour for Israel. The EU's commitment will therefore focus on assisting Palestinian state building efforts as well as providing support for the transition period. We will strengthen ongoing activities and adjust our priorities in light of developments in the political process, working in partnership with the Palestinian Authority government. The results of the Annapolis meeting and the kind of process it will set in motion will determine the pace and the extent of these adjustments.

Developments on the ground will also play an important part in creating the conditions for success at Annapolis and beyond. Israelis and Palestinians will have to fulfil their responsibilities in that respect, by refraining from measures and decisions which undermine the bilateral process, and by pursuing efforts to improve security and lift obstacles to access and movement. International monitoring and assistance will be crucial for progress in this area.

Palestinian State building

- ▶ Supporting the establishment of **modern and democratic police forces**, in full cooperation with the US Security Coordinator. The EU will expand the work of its existing police mission to cover training, equipment and reconstruction of police, prison and training facilities. Our assistance to the civil police will be complemented by wider support to the rule of law, including helping to establish an efficient penal and judiciary system.
- ▶ Comprehensive **institution building and good governance**. For over a decade the EU has been at the forefront of efforts to empower the PA via institution building and its work in the Jerusalem based 'Governance Strategy Group'. The EU foresees intensifying these activities, in areas which complement PA plans, for example health, education and the judiciary.
- ▶ Support for sustained **growth of the Palestinian economy**. We will build on existing support to the Palestinian private sector including credit guarantees, vocational training and trade facilitation. These efforts will have a positive effect on the PA's revenues.
- ▶ **Customs and trade**: the EU will build on its activities in this area, inter alia by providing technological solutions for the swift control of goods passing through the borders of the future Palestinian state, and supporting the PA's efforts to develop its trade policy and institutions (such as an agency dealing with customs and border issues). The EU is ready to resume the work of its trilateral trade policy group.

Support for the transition period

- ▶ **Support to sustainable PA finances**. Achieving a sustainable financial situation will require support to public recurrent and development expenditure, but also the generation of adequate revenues. The EU will continue to encourage private sector activity as well as its institu-

tion building work in the area of customs/ tax revenues and accountability of public finances.

- ▶ Planning modalities for institution building and economic revival, as well as the implementation of projects with quick impact on the ground, will be closely coordinated with Quartet Representative Tony Blair. Active involvement of the Palestinian Authority is necessary for these efforts to have their full effect, in line with the priorities set out in its **Reform and Development Plan**. In parallel, Israeli cooperation is needed for their implementation, in particular with respect to **access and movement** as a pre-requisite for Palestinian economic revival.
- ▶ **Emergency and humanitarian support:** the EU will continue to deliver various forms of aid in the West Bank and Gaza. It will sustain its provision of fuel, which is vital for the continued provision of electricity and clean water; its allowances to low income families; and its support to Palestinian refugees. In Gaza, the EU will design its programmes and activities so as to contribute to the unity and contiguity of the future Palestinian state.

Support for Conflict Resolution

- ▶ **East Jerusalem:** part of building a Palestinian state involves resolving the status of Jerusalem. For many years the EU has supported hospitals, schools and community centres for the people of East Jerusalem. In the context of a political process, these activities could be stepped up.
- ▶ **Refugees:** Since 1971 the EU has been providing significant support to the work of agencies providing vital services to the Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). It is committed to adapting this support as appropriate, in pursuit of a just and equitable solution to the refugee issue.
- ▶ **Security arrangements:** if requested, the EU will be ready in due course to contribute to a system of security arrangements that would be agreed between the parties in the framework of a permanent settlement.

It is our view that the range of support offered by the EU will assist the parties in taking the steps necessary to achieve conflict resolution and the two-state solution. As the process develops, the European Union is ready to help meet the expectations of all regional parties and realise the dividends of peace. In that context, it will continue to work with Israel to upgrade bilateral relations. The EU will also make full use of existing instruments and frameworks to leverage the benefits of regional cooperation for post-conflict rehabilitation, sustained economic and social development and regional security.

ANNAPOLIS JOINT DECLARATION

The representatives of the government of the state of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, represented respectively by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President Mahmoud Abbas, in his capacity as chairman of the PLO executive committee and president of the Palestinian Authority, have convened in Annapolis, Maryland, under the auspices of President George W. Bush of the United States of America, and with the support of the participants of this international conference having concluded the following joint understanding: ‘We express our determination to bring an end to bloodshed, suffering and decades of conflict between our peoples; to usher in a new era of peace, based on freedom, security, justice, dignity,

respect and mutual recognition; to propagate a culture of peace and nonviolence; to confront terrorism and incitement, whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis.

In furtherance of the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, we agree to immediately launch good-faith bilateral in order to conclude a peace treaty resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues without exception, as specified in previous agreements.

We agree to engage in vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations and shall make every effort to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008.

For this purpose, a steering committee led jointly by the head of the delegation of each party will meet continuously as agreed.

The steering committee will develop a joint work plan and establish and oversee the work of negotiations teams to address all issues, to be headed by one lead representative from each party.

The first session of the steering committee will be held on 12 December, 2007.

President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert will continue to meet on a biweekly basis to follow up the negotiations in order to offer all necessary assistance for their advancement.

The parties also commit to immediately implement their respective obligations under the performance-based road map to a permanent two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict issued by the Quartet on 30 April, 2003 – this is called the road map – ‘and agree to form an American, Palestinian and Israeli mechanism led by the United States to follow up on the implementation of the road map.

The parties further commit to continue the implementation of the ongoing obligations of the road map until they reach a peace treaty. The United States will monitor and judge the fulfillment of the commitment of both sides of the road map.

Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, implementation of the future peace treaty will be subject to the implementation of the road map, as judged by the United States.’

10th China-EU Summit

Brussels and Beijing, 28 November 2007

JOINT STATEMENT

The Tenth China-EU Summit was held in Beijing on 28 November 2007. Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council of China attended the meeting on behalf of the People's Republic of China. The EU was represented by the President of the European Council, Prime Minister Jose Socrates of the Portuguese Republic and the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso.

Leaders of the two sides had an overall review of the development of the bilateral relations since the establishment of the mechanism of China-EU Summit in 1998. They agreed that over the decade, China-EU relations have made a historical progress. Leaders expressed their satisfaction with the comprehensive cooperation between the two sides in broad fields and at all levels, and with the growing maturity of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership.

Leaders welcomed the development of China-EU political relations. They hold that the full and effective political dialogue mechanism established between the two sides had played a positive role in enhancing mutual understanding and trust, and expanding common ground and cooperation, and serves as an important foundation for stronger China-EU political mutual trust.

Leaders of China and the EU recalled the deepening and expanding economic cooperation and trade between the two sides, and emphasized that China and the EU are becoming each other's most important economic and trade partners thanks to efforts by both sides over the past 10 years, and that bilateral economic cooperation and trade had become one of the most important driving forces behind further strengthening of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership. Leaders discussed the necessary actions to be taken to achieve a more balanced trade and economic partnership.

Leaders made a comprehensive summing up of the achievements made in China-EU all round cooperation in all fields, and pointed out that the increasingly closer sectoral dialogues had become an effective platform for policy coordination between the two sides, and had contributed significantly to stronger mutually beneficial cooperation.

Leaders stated that China-EU consultation and coordination on major international and regional issues – in particular Africa, Myanmar, the Korean peninsula, Iran, the Middle East and Kosovo, as well as ASEM – as an important part of the overall China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership, had played an important role in promoting world peace, stability and sustainable development.

The two sides briefed each other on their respective latest developments. China welcomed the new and significant progress made in EU integration, as a result of the EU agreement on a new Reform Treaty, which further strengthens Europe as a global player. The EU welcomed the Seventeenth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, and the application of its Scientific Outlook on Development, pursue a win-win strategy of opening up, and follow unswervingly the path of peaceful development. Leaders stated that the current world is now undergoing extensive and profound changes, and that as comprehensive strategic partners, both at a crucial stage of development, China and the EU would, upholding the spirit of democ-

racy, harmony and collaboration for win-win results, continue to work together to promote democracy in international relations, advance a more balanced development of economic globalization to ensure mutual benefit and win-win progress. They would work to promote human civilization, be committed to the peaceful settlement of international disputes, support each other and make concerted efforts to jointly safeguard planet Earth for the benefit of all mankind. Reaffirming their commitment in favour of preserved environment and sustainable development, they would work to promote the building of a harmonious world of durable peace, common prosperity. This not only serves the fundamental interests of the two sides, but also world peace, stability, and development and human rights.

To this end, leaders of the two sides agreed:

1. The two sides will further enhance political dialogue and consultation at all levels, and continue to maintain consultation and coordination on major international and regional issues to enhance political mutual trust and expand strategic common ground.
2. Leaders expressed their mutual satisfaction on the successful launch and start of negotiations on a Partnership and Co-operation Agreement which will encompass the full scope of their bilateral relationship, including enhanced co-operation on political matters. These negotiations will also update the 1985 EEC-China Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement, which will be administered in a relatively independent manner, taking into consideration the global objectives of the EU-China strategic partnership.
3. The EU reaffirmed its commitment to one China policy and expressed its hope for a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question through constructive dialogue. The EU reiterated its concern over the intended referendum on UN membership in the name of Taiwan as this could lead to a unilateral change of the status quo across Taiwan straits to which the EU is opposed. In this context, the EU expressed its concern over the Taipei authorities' intentions about the future status of the island.
4. Leaders also discussed the EU arms embargo. The Chinese side reiterated its view that lifting the arms embargo would be conducive to the sound development of the EU-China relations and urged the EU to lift the arms embargo at an early date. The EU side recognised the importance of this issue and confirmed its willingness to carry forward work towards lifting the embargo on the basis of the Joint Statement of the 2004 EU-China Summit and subsequent European Council Conclusions.
5. Leaders reiterated their willingness to carry out cooperation in the fields of nonproliferation and disarmament. On the basis of the Joint Declaration of the European Union and the People's Republic of China on Non-proliferation and Arms Control, the two sides will continue to enhance dialogue and deepen practical cooperation, building on the successful record in several areas, such as export control.
6. The two sides emphasised their commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and continued to place a high value on the EU-China human rights dialogue, including the accompanying legal seminar. They underlined the importance of concrete steps in the field of human rights and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen dialogue and cooperation in this field on the basis of equality and mutual respect, while making efforts to achieve more meaningful and positive results on the ground. The EU welcomed China's commitment to ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as soon as possible. In respect of the global fight against genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, they also noted the importance of the International Criminal Court.

Both sides confirmed their commitment to cooperate with UN human rights mechanism and their respect for international human rights standards provided for in relevant international human rights instruments including the rights of minorities. The two sides were committed to supporting the UN Human Rights Council in performing its function to address human rights issues in a credible, objective and non-selective manner. Both sides undertook to strengthen their communication and coordination in this regard in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251.

7. Emphasising the paramount need for effective multilateralism, leaders stressed their strong support for a fair, just and rules-based multilateral international system with the UN playing a central role. They reiterated their commitment to promote peace and security, development and human rights, as recognized in the 2005 UN World Summit outcome document. The two sides expressed their support for reform of the United Nations system which would improve the UN's strength, efficiency and effectiveness to cope with new and existing threats and challenges. The two sides maintained that multilateralism served as an important means to resolve international disputes. They will remain committed to promoting the establishment of a fair and effective collective security mechanism in the spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination, and the settling of differences and disputes in a peaceful manner through diplomatic channels. The two sides support the United Nations, and recognize its primacy in international affairs through the Security Council which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

8. The two sides reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations without qualification, committed by whomever, whenever and for whatever purposes. They also reaffirmed their recognition of the United Nations as the only truly global forum for the fight against terrorism. By adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus on 8 September 2006, the General Assembly and the Member States of the UN demonstrated their unity and resolve in combating terrorism. The EU and China both expressed support for the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force in coordinating the implementation of the Global Strategy. They looked forward to the review which would take place in 2008 to strengthen the consensus achieved to date. Leaders also emphasized their continued commitment to reaching an agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) as soon as possible.

The two sides stressed the importance of multilateralism in the fight against terrorism and underlined the importance of universal adherence to, and full implementation of, all UN Conventions and Protocols related to acts of terrorism.

Both sides expressed the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and supported the view that terrorism should not be linked to any religion or culture, and there should be consistency in the fight against terrorism.

Leaders recognized that any measures undertaken to prevent and combat terrorism must comply with obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. Effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting, but complementary and mutually reinforcing goals.

9. Leaders gave a positive assessment of the progress made by Africa in the fields of peace and development and of the efforts of African countries and the African Union in promoting African integration. They reiterated their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and global sustainable development in a balanced and coordinated way.

Leaders recalled the successful cooperation since the last Summit, at all levels, in the efforts of the international community to facilitate a solution to the Darfur crisis and underlined the need to make further progress as regards the Darfur peace negotiations as well as the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The leaders expressed the objective to see the Africa Union/UN hybrid peace keeping operation UNAMID soon to be deployed; they noted the progress in preparation of the operation MINURCAT and EUFOR Chad/RCA recalling the common aim of contributing to peace and stability in Darfur and the neighbouring regions.

10. Leaders welcomed more practical cooperation by the two sides through their respective existing cooperation mechanisms with Africa, such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the EU-Africa Summit, so as to contribute to Africa's peace, stability and sustainable development on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The two sides agreed to continue their dialogue on African issues, and actively explore effective ways and channels of cooperation among China, the EU and Africa in appropriate areas. The EU invited China to attend the EU-Africa Summit as an observer. China invited the EU Commissioner for Development to visit China.

11. The EU and China confirmed their full support for the good offices efforts of Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, Special Advisor of the UN Secretary General, with a view to advancing democracy in Myanmar. Both sides agreed on the need to see tangible progress in the domestic process, with dialogue among the parties concerned.

12. Leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to work towards lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, including the effective denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. Leaders welcomed the important progress that has been made in the Six Party talks process with a view to implementing the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 through the steps agreed in February and October 2007. They welcomed the shutdown of the Yongbyon facility and look forward to its full disablement and dismantlement as well as the complete and correct declaration by DPRK of all its nuclear programmes. Leaders also welcomed the steps agreed at the Inter-Korean Summit in October and the follow-up steps envisaged regarding an eventual peace treaty, economic integration, and Korean unification.

13. Leaders noted the latest report by the IAEA Director General on Iran's nuclear programme and the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007). They reiterated their commitment to seek a comprehensive, long-term and proper solution by diplomatic means and through negotiation and dialogue. They reaffirmed the Statement by the Foreign Ministers of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, 28 September 2007 and they urged Iran to fully comply with Resolutions 1737 and 1747.

14. Leaders reaffirmed their support for a negotiated settlement of the Israeli- Palestinian conflict based on existing agreements which include the relevant UN Resolutions and the principles laid down in the Road Map. In that context, leaders welcomed the ongoing bilateral discussions between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas. They expressed their hope that this would allow the Parties to move forward to the creation of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. Leaders expressed their support for the recent international meeting in Annapolis, which they hope will provide the first step towards a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The EU and China confirmed that the international community stands ready to sup-

port the political process, including support for the crucial implementation period.

15. Leaders discussed the issue of Kosovo, and reiterated support for the mediating efforts of the international community including the EU.

16. On the emerging regional architecture in Asia, the EU welcomes China's contribution to strengthen open and transparent regional cooperation in Asia, and appreciates China's constructive and active role in this respect. China welcomes the EU's constructive contributions to the regional political architecture in Asia-Pacific. Both the EU and China express their support for further regional cooperation as demonstrated by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the ASEAN Regional Forum, as well as the enhancement of EUASEAN relations. China welcomes the EU's interest in contributing to the East Asia regional cooperation process and its intention to join the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).

17. The two sides recognized ASEM as an important framework for multilateral dialogue and political, economic, social and cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe. They recognised the intensifying economic cooperation as a key component of Asia-Europe relations. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the process through constructive dialogues and action-oriented programmes, to ensure the implementation of the 2006 Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM and the success of the 7th ASEM Summit to be held in China in 2008.

18. Leaders agreed to enhance cooperation to ensure smooth progress of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

19. Leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in and dialogue on sustainable economic and social development, especially in areas of trade and business exchanges, climate change, environment and energy, human resources development and public administration. Both parties will increase efforts to support corporate social responsibility and sustainable development, including through sustainable production and consumption patterns and a more efficient use of natural resources.

20. Leaders agreed to enhance cooperation on environment protection, focusing on cooperation in areas such as sustainable production and consumption, pollution control and management, natural resource management, river basin management, biodiversity conservation, international environment governance, emergency response to environmental accidents, chemicals management, and disposal and management of dangerous wastes. They also agreed to promote clean technology transfer conducive to their cooperation, and encouraged the adoption of stricter environmental standards in mutual investment. The two sides are determined to continue their joint effort to tackle illegal logging as an important contribution to the preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, mitigation of climate change, and the economic development in the timber-producing countries.

21. Leaders stressed the great importance they attached to the issue of climate change, and their willingness to strengthen cooperation to jointly meet the serious challenge of climate change, the urgency of which was unequivocally confirmed by the latest scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). China and the EU are committed to the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level which would prevent dangerous anthropogenic climate interference with the climate system, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The leaders reviewed the bilateral cooperation under the China-EU Partnership on Climate Change and called for progress to be made, including on research of near-zero emis-

sions coal power generation technology through carbon capture and storage, as well as development of concrete cooperation projects to strengthen China's participation in the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism.

They agree to step up their efforts to further enhance the bilateral cooperation, including their cooperation on technology development and transfer. China and the EU agreed to actively implement the rolling work plan of China-EU Partnership on Climate Change covering the period 2008-2009, including cooperation on province-level climate change programmes in China, climate change adaptation strategies and public awareness initiatives.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. They reiterated, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, the need for developed countries to continue to take the lead in reducing GHG emissions beyond 2012 and to assist developing countries in enhancing their contributions to addressing climate change. They are committed to moving forward in the UN forum and called on all parties to actively and constructively participate in UNFCCC Conference in Bali in December 2007.

They welcomed the progress achieved in the 'Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing the implementation of the Convention' and agreed to work towards launching a process on a comprehensive post-2012 arrangement at this year's UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bali so as to enhance the implementation of the Convention and aim to complete work under this process as soon as possible but no later than 2010. They also emphasized the importance of speedy and substantive progress in the negotiations of the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for developed countries beyond 2012 under the Kyoto Protocol and aim to complete work under this process before the end of 2009. They underlined their belief that an integrated approach to climate change and energy is crucial, and particularly stressed the need to exploit the synergies between the promotion of energy security, improved air quality and addressing greenhouse gas emissions to ensure consistency between meeting the ultimate objectives of the UNFCCC and their respective energy policy goals. They agreed on the importance of the engagement, investment of and provision of incentives to private sector in tackling climate change and on the significant potential economic opportunities of China-EU cooperation in this area.

22. Leaders recognized the crucial role of technology in addressing the issue of climate change in particular for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and for adaptation. Both sides consider technology as a major instrument to address climate change. They emphasised the importance of a post-2012 agreement to help within the context of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol to make clean technologies accessible and affordable to developing countries by technology transfer, deployment and dissemination as well as to strengthen the global carbon market and to intensify cooperation on the adaptation to the increasing adverse impacts of climate change.

Leaders witnessed the signing of a 500 million framework loan to the People's Republic of China from the European Investment Bank to support projects that contribute to combating climate change.

23. The two sides maintained that the energy issue is a global issue which is closely related to the economical and social development of all nations. Both China and the EU recognized the importance of enhancing bilateral communication and cooperation on this issue, and agreed to take effective measures and continue to promote their mutually beneficial and practical cooperation in the energy field.

The two sides will actively prepare for the Seventh EU-China Conference on Energy Cooperation in 2008 and work together to ensure positive progress of the second China-EU Dialogue on Energy and Transport Strategies. The leaders expressed their support for closer cooperation on increasing efficiencies along the entire coal value chain and for making further progress on the development including research of near zero emissions coal technology. This would assist both sides in securing the economic and environmental benefits of recent developments in coal technologies and practice.

Leaders endorsed cooperation in establishing a China-EU Clean Energy Centre.

The two sides will continue to conduct consultations in this regard with a view to reaching agreement and opening the Centre in 2008. Projects and initiatives pertaining to increased energy efficiency could be part of such future cooperation.

24. Both sides agreed to establish by the end of March 2008 a High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue between the European Commission and the State Council of China at the level of Vice-Premier which will discuss strategies in EU-China trade, investment and economic cooperation and coordinate bilateral projects, studies and develop plans in priority sectors. It will cover issues affecting the trade imbalance, including inter alia effective market access, intellectual property rights, environment, high technology and energy in order to find concrete means to increase trade in a balanced way. To this end, the Chinese Minister of Commerce and the EU Trade Commissioner will meet as necessary to prepare this mechanism and its agenda.

25. The High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue will review the concerns of China including progress on the issue of Market Economy Status (MES) made in other fora.

26. The two sides agreed to enhance their cooperation in macroeconomic policy, and promote exchange of best practice in economic and social management and public service among their government departments. The two sides will continue to deepen financial dialogue, and conduct exchange and cooperation in China-EU macroeconomic situation, fiscal and financial policies, reforms and regulation of financial sectors.

27. The Parties welcomed the discussions held in Beijing on 27-28 November between the Chinese representatives and their counterparts from Eurogroup on macroeconomic issues. During these discussions, the two sides believed that it was necessary to make concerted efforts to adopt comprehensive measures, intensify structural adjustment, and avoid drastic movement of exchange rates, so as to make due contribution to the orderly adjustment of global imbalances. They took note that a working group involving the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and European Central Bank (ECB) will deal with the exchange rates related issues.

28. Leaders share the view that a high level of product safety is key to consumer confidence and reciprocal trade. To this end, the competent authorities of both sides have established a comprehensive cooperative relationship in recent years and carried out good, close and fruitful cooperation and exchanges. Both sides are willing to continue and deepen their constructive dialogue, regularly exchange information and aim at measurable, continuous improvements.

29. The two sides will take full advantage of the China-EU dialogue mechanism on agriculture and rural areas, and continue to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of prevention and control of animal diseases, quality and safety of agricultural products, agricultural trade as well as management of safety of genetically modified organisms.

30. Leaders agreed to maintain close consultation and dialogue through the competition policy dialogue mechanism, and strengthen cooperation in the field of enforcement of anti-

monopoly law and international competition policies. The European Union congratulated China on the adoption of the Anti-Monopoly Law in August 2007. The EU values the competition dialogue greatly and will continue its support to the relevant Chinese competition bodies and authorities in the implementation of the Anti-Monopoly Law.

31. Leaders welcomed the China-EU Business Summit held in Beijing on 27-28 November 2007. Both sides underlined the importance of involving more actively stakeholders in China-EU trade and investment-related dialogues, and expressed their commitment to continue to support the cooperation between the two business communities, with a view to creating more business opportunities and expanding the scope of development for enterprises.

32. The two sides agree that further facilitation is needed for EU SMEs to operate in China and Chinese SMEs to operate in the EU, to contribute to an enabling trade environment. The two sides, therefore, welcome the European initiative of conducting a feasibility study on a European Centre in China to assist European SMEs investing in or exporting to China by providing information and assistance and promoting exchanges with Chinese government agencies, business associations and economic operators.

33. Leaders emphasized the positive results of the China-EU Science and Technology Year (CESTY), gathering researchers, industry, including SMEs and academics, and expressed the willingness to continue to strengthen the existing scientific and technological cooperation, explore new bilateral cooperation mechanisms and jointly identify priority areas of cooperation. They reiterated the recognition of the importance of Science and Technology cooperation for sustainable mutual benefit.

The leaders welcomed the conclusions of the 6th Steering Committee meeting of the EU-China Science & Technology Agreement, which was held in Beijing on 14 November 2007. The two parties agreed to move towards a more strategic scientific cooperation through the launch of EU-China joint research projects.

These projects will be co-funded by both parties, in full respect of the EU and China funding principles, laws and rules.

The leaders acknowledged the very important participation of Chinese researchers in the first calls of the 7th Research Framework Programme. They agreed to facilitate also the participation of European researchers in Chinese funded programmes. The leaders encouraged programmes to assist the mobility of researchers.

Both sides will take all necessary steps to renew in due course the China-EU Science and Technology Agreement that will expire by December 2009 and, as a first step in this direction, announced that they will carry out an assessment of their cooperation prior to the renewal as foreseen in the present Agreement.

34. The two sides expressed their satisfaction on the entry into force of the ITER agreement on 24 October 2007 and on the first official meeting of the ITER Council on 27-28 November 2007. The two sides have agreed to start the discussions towards the establishment of a bilateral agreement between Euratom and China in the field of fusion energy research to complement the ITER Agreement.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction for having concluded the discussions on the R&D agreement for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They hope that the agreement will enter into force very soon, allowing cooperation in the area of nuclear fission. In this context they note that EURATOM and China are now active members of the Generation IV International Forum, a situation that should foster bilateral cooperation.

35. The two sides will continue to advance practical cooperation through the China-EU dialogue on the Information Society.

36. The two sides agreed to work within the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the European Community on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, to further standardize and strengthen customs cooperation that reflects the principle of reciprocity. They will continue to enhance customs cooperation regarding intellectual property enforcement, and implement the Smart and Secure Trade Lanes Pilot Project which is aimed at ensuring security and facilitation of the China -EU trade supply chain.

37. Leaders expressed their satisfaction over the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of road transport and inland waterways and expressed the hope for quick implementation. The two sides welcomed the ratification by EU Member States and China of the Maritime Agreement and the successful results of the 4th meeting on the implementation of the 2002 China-EU maritime transport agreement held in Rotterdam and supported the further deepening of their cooperation in all the relevant areas.

38. Leaders took stock of progress in the area of civil aviation and stressed the need for closer cooperation between China and the EU in this vital area in order to jointly promote solutions to the important common challenges facing the global aviation community.

Leaders reiterated the need to restore legal certainty to the existing bilateral air service agreements through joint efforts and intensified consultations, taking into account the concerns of both sides. Leaders also agreed to strengthen technical and technological cooperation in a broad range of fields in aviation and called for a swift conclusion of an agreement laying down a comprehensive framework for future China-EU technical cooperation in areas including aviation safety, security, environment, economic regulation and air traffic management, including the possible participation of China in Europe's SESAR programme for a new generation of air traffic management systems.

39. The EU and China underlined the importance of cultural relations between the EU and China, especially in the context of the process of implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Both sides welcomed the Joint Declaration on culture, signed by the European Commission and China in October 2007, which clearly expresses a strong convergence of views on the role of culture in our societies and in a globalizing world and which reaffirms a strong commitment of both sides to further enhance cooperation and establish a structured policy dialogue in the field of culture.

40. The two sides stressed that they would implement the WHO International Health Regulations (2005) in real earnest, safeguard public health and continue to follow with concern the spread of HIV/AIDS, human infected highly pathogenic avian influenza and other new epidemics. They will maintain and promote information and technology exchanges and cooperation in this field, and enhance cooperation and exchanges in areas of food sanitation and safety, and health personnel training. The two sides looked forward to the signing by China and the European Commission of a Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of animal health and the exchange of avian influenza viruses between reference laboratories in China and the EU for the purpose of improving scientific knowledge on this important disease.

41. Leaders expressed their satisfaction on the cooperation between the EU and China in the field of employment and social affairs, as an important element of the dialogue on sus-

tainable development and decent work. They emphasized the outcomes of the 2nd High Level Round Table on Social Security which took place in Berlin in June 2007, and highlighted its contribution to the current reforms in China. They are encouraged by the ongoing cooperation in the field of labour law, and in particular by the exchange of experience in labour dispute settlement, with a bilateral event taking place in Beijing in November 2007. They strongly support the intention to establish a structured dialogue in the field of health and safety at work, and encourage the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed early 2008.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of social assistance, social welfare and social affairs.

42. Leaders recognised the importance of a healthy and developing civil society for the sustainability of the reform process both in the EU and China. Leaders were of the view that the continued exchanges and pragmatic cooperation between the China Economic and Social Council and the European Economic and Social Committee constitute a part of the relationship. Leaders welcomed the strengthening of the civil society dialogue between the two sides and encouraged the implementation of the Joint Statements of the two Round Tables.

43. The two sides will remain committed to further enhancing and expanding their exchanges and cooperation in legal and judicial areas with a view to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship.

44. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in areas such as anti-terrorism, combating transnational organized crimes, human smuggling and trafficking in persons and drug-related crimes.

45. Leaders underlined that facilitating people-to-people exchanges and combating illegal migration remained a priority for both sides. Leaders also discussed issues of readmission and visa facilitation. They reiterated their willingness to open negotiations on issues of their respective concern and agreed to start concrete cooperation on related issues as soon as possible. Leaders also welcomed significant progress in the implementation of the tourism agreement (ADS) and encouraged the further intensification of cooperation.

46. Leaders agreed to speedily initiate the meeting mechanism of China-EU on youth affairs at ministerial level.

Leaders supported and encouraged the enhancement of exchanges and cooperation between scholars and think tanks of the two sides. The EU and China emphasized their commitment to strengthen China-EU academic cooperation and exchanges by further stimulating the participation of their academic institutions, students and scholars in the Erasmus Mundus programme External Cooperation Window and Chinese Government Scholarship Programme (EU Window). The EU welcomed the launch of the China- EU Language Exchange Project (EU Window).

Both sides welcomed the Joint Declaration on education and vocational training which was signed in October 2007 and which will set the basis for a structured policy dialogue that will allow for regular exchanges of best practice, reviews of policy developments and challenges, and promoting knowledge-building and sharing on horizontal and sectoral issues of common interest for the European Community and China.

Leaders welcomed the cooperation on establishing a Europe-China School of Law in China.

The leaders welcomed the successful launch of the China-Europe Business Management Training Project.

47. The Leaders welcomed the progress in the EU-China development co-operation programme. The two sides noted with satisfaction that the recently finalized Multiannual Indicative Programme for 2007-2010 makes 128 million available, from the EC budget, for support in areas covered by sectoral dialogues, the environment, energy and climate change and human resources development.

Kosovo – Troika Press Communiqué

Baden, 28 November 2007

The EU/ U.S./Russia negotiating Troika has completed an intensive conference with the delegations from Belgrade and Pristina to discuss Kosovo's status. The Troika brought together leaders of both sides in Baden, Austria, for nearly three days of intense talks. The Baden Conference marks the end of Troika-sponsored face to face negotiations.

Over the course of the talks, the Troika urged the parties to consider a broad range of options for Kosovo's status. The Troika explored together with both sides every reasonable status outcome for Kosovo to determine where there might be potential for a mutually-acceptable outcome.

Regrettably, the parties were unable to reach an agreement on Kosovo's future status. Nevertheless, the Troika believes that the parties benefited from this period of intensive dialogue. It was an opportunity for them to build trust and to identify shared interests, in particular their desire to seek a better future through achievement of a European perspective.

The Troika-led negotiations provided the parties six occasions to discuss directly the final status of Kosovo. The negotiations created an opportunity to engage in dialogue at the highest levels. These meetings have permitted the Troika to reiterate the importance of maintaining peace, avoiding incitement to violence and jeopardizing security in the region. The parties have accepted these principles repeatedly, most recently during the Baden Conference. Both sides made it clear they wish to avoid violence. This commitment to peace must continue after the Troika completes its work on December 10. The Troika calls on Belgrade and Pristina to maintain communications without prejudice to their positions on status. It is up to Belgrade and Pristina to sustain their commitment to peace and dialogue on issues of mutual concern.

The Troika will now begin to draft the report which will be submitted no later than December 10 to Secretary General by the Contact Group. During the Troika's December 3 visit to Belgrade and Pristina, it will review this report with the parties. After the Contact Group submits the report to the UN Secretary General, the Troika's mandate will conclude.

EUPT Kosovo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 29 November 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/778/CFSP AMENDING AND EXTENDING JOINT ACTION 2006/304/CFSP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EU PLANNING TEAM (EUPT KOSOVO) REGARDING A POSSIBLE EU CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RULE OF LAW AND POSSIBLE OTHER AREAS IN KOSOVO

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

- (1) On 10 April 2006 the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 16 October 2007, the Political and Security Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'PSC') agreed that EUPT Kosovo should be extended for four months after the expiry of the existing mandate on 30 November 2007, until 31 March 2008.
- (3) The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability within the Council Secretariat and EUPT Kosovo will continue technical preparations for a future ESDP Mission in Kosovo, including for informal and indicative force generation, for participation of third States and for procurement.
- (4) An operational risk assessment on the launch of a possible future ESDP Mission has shown that in order to ensure that the Mission is equipped in line with the planned force generation process by the day of the transfer of authority, it is necessary to provide for a significant advance procurement of equipment for the Mission.
- (5) The advance procurement of equipment is considered to entail important financial risks.
- (6) The advance procurement of equipment is separate from, and without prejudice to, any subsequent political decision on whether to deploy the Mission.
- (7) On 18 June 2007, the Council approved Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management. These Guidelines provide, in particular, that a Civilian Operation Commander will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP (hereinafter referred to as 'SG/HR'). These Guidelines further provide that the Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) established within the Council Secretariat will, for each civilian crisis management operation, be the Civilian Operation Commander.
- (8) The above-mentioned Command and Control Structure is without prejudice to the contractual responsibilities of the Head of EUPT Kosovo towards the Commission for implementing the budget of EUPT Kosovo.
- (9) The watch-keeping capability established within the Council Secretariat should be activated for EUPT Kosovo.
- (10) Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP should be extended and amended accordingly,

(1) OJ L 112, 26.4.2006, p. 19. Joint Action as last amended by Joint Action 2007/520/CFSP (OJ L 192, 24.7.2007, p. 28).

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 2(5) shall be replaced by the following:

‘5. Identifying the needs of the possible future EU crisis management operation regarding its required means of support, including all equipment, services and premises and drawing up related terms of reference or technical specifications. Proposing actions to procure the required equipment, services and premises, taking into account the possibility of taking over suitable equipment, premises and material from available sources, including UNMIK, where it is relevant, feasible and cost efficient. Launching tender procedures and awarding contracts to enable the delivery of equipment, services and premises in time to ensure that the mission is adequately equipped by the day of the transfer of authority. This shall be done in two stages. The first stage shall begin upon the adoption of the this Joint Action and shall provide for procurement, notably of vehicles, IT equipment, communications equipment, premises (equipment & refurbishment), security equipment, and uniforms, of up to 75 % of the budget allocated for capital expenditure. The second stage, covering the remaining procurement needs of the mission, shall begin following the agreement of the Council to establish an EU crisis management operation.’;

2. The following article shall be inserted:

‘Article 3a

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for EUPT Kosovo.

2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall exercise command and control of EUPT Kosovo 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 EUPT Kosovo.

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 (OPCON) of their personnel, teams and units to the Civilian Operation Commander.

5. The Civilian Operation Commander has overall responsibility for ensuring that the European Union’s duty of care is properly discharged.’;

3. Article 4 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 4

Head of EUPT Kosovo and staff

1. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall assume responsibility and exercise command and control of EUPT Kosovo at theatre level.

2. The Head of EUPT Kosovo 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 informa-

tion put at the disposal of EUPT Kosovo.

3. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall issue instructions to all EUPT Kosovo staff, including in this case the Brussels support element, for the effective conduct of EUPT Kosovo in theatre, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, following the instructions at strategic level of the Civilian Operation Commander.
4. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall be responsible for the implementation of EUPT Kosovo's budget. For this purpose, the Head of EUPT Kosovo shall sign a contract with the Commission.
5. The Head of EUPT Kosovo 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 EUPT Kosovo shall represent EUPT Kosovo in the operations area and shall ensure appropriate visibility of EUPT Kosovo.
7. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall coordinate, as appropriate, with other EU actors on the ground.
8. EUPT Kosovo shall primarily consist of civilian staff seconded by Member States or EU institutions. Each Member State or EU institution shall bear the costs related to any of the staff seconded by it, including salaries, medical coverage, travel expenses to and from Kosovo, and allowances other than per diems.
9. EUPT Kosovo may also recruit international staff and local staff on a contractual basis if necessary.
10. All staff shall carry out their duties and act in the sole interest of EUPT Kosovo. 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 (hereinafter referred to as "Council's security regulations")⁽¹⁾;

4. Article 5 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 5

Chain of Command

1. EUPT Kosovo shall have a unified chain of command.
2. Under the responsibility of the Council, the PSC shall exercise political control and strategic direction of EUPT Kosovo.
3. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall be the commander of EUPT Kosovo at strategic level and, as such, shall issue instructions to the Head of EUPT Kosovo and provide him with advice and technical support. Following the establishment of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo and before the launch of the operational phase of the mission, the Civilian Operation Commander shall issue instructions to the Head of EUPT Kosovo through the Head of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo once the latter has been appointed.
4. The Civilian Operation Commander shall report to the Council through the SG/HR.
5. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall exercise command and control of EUPT Kosovo at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander. Following the establishment of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo and before the launch of its operational phase, the Head of EUPT Kosovo shall act under the direction of the Head of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo once the latter has been appointed.

(1) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).

6. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall report to the Civilian Operation Commander. Following the establishment of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo and before the launch of its operational phase, the Head of EUPT Kosovo shall report to the Civilian Operation Commander through the Head of the EU crisis management operation in Kosovo once the latter has been appointed.

7. Once the PSC has reached an agreement in principle on the appointment of the Head of the EU crisis management operation, appropriate liaison and coordination shall be ensured by the Head of EUPT Kosovo.’;

5. Article 6 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 6

Political control and strategic direction

1. The PSC shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council, the political control and strategic direction of EUPT Kosovo. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions for this purpose in accordance with Article 25 of the Treaty. This authorisation shall include the powers to take subsequent decisions regarding the appointment of the Head of EUPT Kosovo. The powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of EUPT Kosovo shall remain vested in the Council.

2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.

3. The PSC shall receive, on a regular basis and as required, reports by the Civilian Operation Commander and the Head of EUPT Kosovo on issues within their areas of responsibility.’;

6. Article 8 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 8

Security

1. The Civilian Operation Commander shall direct the Head of EUPT Kosovo in his planning of security measures and ensure their proper and effective implementation for EUPT Kosovo in accordance with Articles 3a and 5 and in coordination with the Security Office of the General Secretariat of the Council (hereinafter referred to as “GSC Security Office”).

2. The Head of EUPT Kosovo shall be responsible for the security of EUPT Kosovo and for ensuring compliance with minimum security requirements applicable to EUPT Kosovo 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. EUPT Kosovo shall have a dedicated Security Officer reporting to the Head of EUPT Kosovo.

4. EUPT personnel shall undergo mandatory security training before their entry into function.’;

7. The following Article shall be inserted:

‘Article 13a

Watch-keeping

The watch-keeping capability shall be activated for EUPT Kosovo.’;

8. Article 14 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 14

Review

The Council shall by 31 January 2008 evaluate whether EUPT Kosovo should be continued after 31 March 2008, taking into account the necessity for a smooth transition to a possible EU crisis management operation in Kosovo.;

9. Article 15(2) shall be replaced by the following:

‘2. It shall expire on 31 March 2008.’.

Article 2

The financial reference amount as set out in Article 9(1), second sub-paragraph, of Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP shall be increased by EUR 22 000 000, to a total of EUR 76 500 000, in order to cover the expenditure related to the mandate of EUPT Kosovo for the period from 1 December 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Article 3

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

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels, 29 November 2007.

For the Council

The President

M. Lino

India-EU Summit

New Delhi, 30 November 2007

JOINT STATEMENT

The eighth India-European Union Summit was held in Delhi on 30 November 2007. The Republic of India was represented by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, External Affairs Minister, Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri M K Narayanan, National Security Adviser. The EU was represented by Mr José Sócrates, Prime Minister of Portugal, in his capacity as President of the European Council, by Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Mr Peter Mandelson, European Commissioner for Trade, and Mr João Gomes Cravinho, Portuguese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The following message was jointly issued:

1. In the 60th year of India's independence and the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, India and the EU, as the two largest democracies of the world and global actors in a multipolar world, underscored their commitment to the Strategic Partnership launched at The Hague in November 2004. They reaffirmed that the Strategic Partnership flows from a shared conviction in the values of democracy, fundamental freedoms (including religious), pluralism, rule of law, respect for human rights and multilateralism in the international political architecture as the means to tackle global challenges effectively. They expressed their determination to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership and to cooperate at the global level for the cause of peace, security and sustainable development for all.
2. India and EU welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Country Strategy Paper for India for 2007-2010, which with a total budget of Euro 260 million, will support India's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to implement the India-EU Joint Action Plan.
3. The two sides reviewed the Joint Action Plan, adopted at the sixth India-EU Summit at New Delhi in September 2005, welcomed the progress in its implementation, and looked forward to further advances. The two sides are to make an overall assessment of the Joint Action Plan in 2008 and, on this occasion, will assess ways and means of further upgrading the overall framework of EU-India relations.
4. They emphasised building on the existing bilateral cooperation programme in innovation and reduction of greenhouse gas emission, research on clean development and climate change and also on promotion of energy security and sustainable energy supply. The leaders noted with satisfaction the intensification of the dialogue at various levels between the two strategic partners as well as between India and individual EU Member States. The leaders welcomed the formation of a Delegation for Relations with India in the European Parliament. They agreed that the creation of an Indian parliamentary caucus for relations with the EU would encourage interaction between Parliamentarians from the two sides. The leaders also underlined the need to keep increasing people-to-people contacts between India and EU Member States for businesspeople, professionals and members of official delegations, as well as researchers, scientists, students, academics and civil society representatives.

5. India and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and to a deeper level of bilateral trade relations. The successful and timely outcome of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) multilateral trade negotiations remains the foremost trade policy priority of the two sides. Both sides are determined to work closely together to ensure the successful conclusion of the DDA negotiations through a comprehensive, balanced and ambitious outcome in all areas of negotiation. Both sides agreed that development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration must be honoured and reflected in the modalities being negotiated as also in the final outcome. A successful conclusion of the negotiations must yield an outcome that enhances market opening and contributes to development.
6. The leaders noted that bilateral trade and investment between India and the EU has been growing steadily and reflects the strengthening of bilateral economic ties. The sides also took note of the further work of the High Level Trade Group since the last Summit when it was decided to work towards concluding a Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement. India and the EU welcomed the progress achieved in the first few rounds of negotiations on the India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement and reaffirmed commitment to further intensify negotiations.
7. Both sides welcomed the India-EU Business Summit coinciding with the political dialogue. Leaders welcomed the second meeting of the EU-India CEO Round Table, which provided for useful and constructive interactions among key Business leaders from both sides. The Indian Side welcomed the proposal for creation of a European Business and Technology Centre in India, with the objective to promote private and public partnerships in specific sectors such as energy, environment, clean development and climate change.
8. The leaders reiterated their commitment to promote international peace and security. In this context the leaders highly valued the India-EU Security Dialogue, which had its second meeting in Berlin in May 2007, for exchanging views on security issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as bilateral issues of mutual concern.
9. Emphasising the paramount need for effective multilateralism and their commitment to a rules-based international order, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to intensify cooperation at the United Nations and in multilateral fora to address issues of global concern, including in the areas of human rights, development and the environment. The Summit underlined the importance of a strong, effective and efficient United Nations Organisation and the leaders also recognised the need for a comprehensive UN reform. The Summit agreed to work jointly towards strengthening the role of the UN Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, and stressed the need to maintain momentum in the efforts to adapt the United Nations to the needs of today's world. In this same context the leaders stressed the need for more efficient environmental activities in the UN system. They also agreed to continue to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework, building on existing institutions.
10. Both sides remain committed to reinforcing cooperation within the UN Human Rights Council and enhancing their dialogue on human rights, both in a bilateral and multilateral context. Both the EU and India are committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as promoting good governance. The Summit leaders also stressed the importance of eliminating impunity for the perpetrators of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
11. India and the EU reaffirm their shared interest in working together as partners for disarmament and for countering the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems. They regard proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems, particularly the risk of their falling into the

hands of terrorists and other non-State actors, as a significant contemporary challenge. In this regard they emphasise the importance of full compliance by all States with their non-proliferation and disarmament obligations including through national implementation of effective export control measures as detailed in UNSC Resolution 1540. India and the EU are ready to contribute as partners to global efforts to address the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery while preserving and promoting cooperation in peaceful uses of technology through forward looking approaches among countries committed to disarmament and non-proliferation.

12. The leaders emphasised the urgent need for the international community to promote a comprehensive peace plan for the Middle East / West Asia, with the objective of reaching comprehensive, just and durable peace and stability in the region. They reaffirmed their support for a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on existing agreements, including relevant UNSC Resolutions, the Roadmap, and the Arab League Resolution (Beirut 2002). The leaders discussed the situation in Lebanon and supported the full implementation of UNSC Resolution 1701 and the reinforced UNIFIL. They supported the Lebanese Government's measures to preserve peace and stability, and to put down extremism. Leaders expressed their support for the recent international meeting, which they hope will contribute towards a comprehensive solution to the Arab Israeli conflict.

13. The leaders recognised the important efforts of both sides to support the sustainable development of Africa and to promote the integration of Africa into the world economy on fair terms for the peoples involved. Together, India and the EU recognise the importance of their participation in peacekeeping operations in Africa, including those in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea. They also recognise the importance of enhancing their cooperation to support peace and security in Africa, to prevent conflict and to assist countries emerging from conflict.

14. The leaders discussed the evolving situation in Myanmar and agreed that the process of national reconciliation and political reform should be inclusive, broad-based and taken forward expeditiously. They expressed support for the ongoing good offices of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Myanmar to resolve issues peacefully through dialogue and noted the efforts of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. The leaders affirmed the need for an inclusive dialogue, including with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the Myanmar ethnic groups, to bring about genuine reconciliation and progress towards democracy.

15. India and the EU expressed the hope that Pakistan will soon return to stability and democracy.

16. India and the EU expressed their strong support for a sovereign, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan. They reaffirmed their sustained commitment to assist the Afghan Government in the stabilisation and rebuilding of Afghanistan, working within the framework of the Afghanistan Compact. They welcomed Afghanistan joining SAARC as its eighth member at the 14th Summit held in Delhi in April 2007, and the holding of the second Regional Economic Cooperation Conference (RECC) in New Delhi in November 2006. They noted that although much has been achieved in recent years, formidable challenges still lie ahead. In this regard, they expressed concern over the security situation in Afghanistan due to the growth in terrorism and drug related activities, and the danger these developments pose. They condemned continued attacks on aid workers, and the kidnapping and killing of innocents by illegal armed groups, including the Taliban and Al Qaeda. They reiterated, in this context, that a

coherent and united international commitment remains of paramount importance, and agreed to continue cooperating and coordinating their efforts to impart greater strength to this process.

17. The leaders expressed deep disappointment at the postponement of elections in Nepal. Repeated postponement of the elections erodes the credibility and affects the process of democratic transformation and legitimisation in Nepal. Early elections and a mandate from the people are essential for the peace process to stay on track. The leaders urged the Government and the political parties to honour the agreements and commitments already made to enable the people of Nepal to choose at the earliest their own future and the manner of their governance through a free and fair process, open to all without intimidation.

18. There is no military solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka. A negotiated, political settlement, acceptable to all communities within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, is the goal that all international efforts should encourage. A credible devolution package would be a major contribution to this end. The leaders urged the parties to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, and to guarantee access for humanitarian aid to the population.

19. India and the EU expressed their support for the reform process in Bangladesh, including preparations for general parliamentary elections in 2008. Both sides are mobilising significant efforts to help the country overcome recent natural disasters.

20. India welcomed the EU's participation as an observer in the 14th SAARC Summit, held in New Delhi on 1-4 April 2007. The Summit was the first where observers were allowed into SAARC. Both sides expressed hope that this would further enhance co-operation between SAARC and the EU.

21. The EU welcomed India's participation at the ASEM meeting and reiterated its endorsement of the incorporation of India in the fold of the ASEM process of dialogue and cooperation linking EU and Asia. India noted the EU's interest to engage in the East Asia Summit process and its intention to join the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).

22. India and the EU stand united in facing the scourge of terrorism, which constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. India and the EU condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. Efforts to counter terrorism can only be successful with a sustained and comprehensive approach. It should be pursued in full respect of international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. India and the EU, therefore, 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. The two sides expressed their commitment to work towards implementation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including by supporting the work of the counter terrorism implementation task force. The EU and India continue to work actively towards a swift finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN. Both sides are committed to continuing their cooperation on counter-terrorism and look forward to holding the next regular India-EU consultations soon. Strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism continues to be one of the priority areas for the EU-India Strategic Partnership.

23. Both India and the EU attach high priority to tackling climate change and promoting energy security as a key to stable and sustainable development. Energy is an important area of ongoing and future policy dialogue and practical cooperation between India and the EU. The

two sides noted the valuable contribution of the India-EU Energy Panel, which had its third meeting in June 2007 in Brussels. They agreed to expand the scope of the working group on Coal with alternate meetings adopting different emphasis on mining oriented and conversion technologies, including enhanced generation efficiency, carbon capture and control respectively. It was also decided to have Indian participation in the international Biofuels forum. The two sides agreed to work towards a new flagship project on R&D in solar energy. In addition, leaders agreed to enhance cooperation on energy efficiency on an international level. They also recognised the importance of improving efficiency, in particular through the adoption of collaborative approaches in energy-intensive sectors.

24. The two sides expressed their satisfaction on the entry into force of the ITER agreement on 24 October 2007 and on the first official meeting of the ITER Council on 27-28 November 2007. The EU and India have agreed to start the discussions towards the establishment of a bilateral agreement between EURATOM and India in the field of fusion energy research to complement the ITER Agreement.

25. The leaders reaffirmed that urgent action is required by all countries to address climate change, the urgency of which was confirmed by the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). India and the EU are committed to the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. They believe that, in order to achieve this, global action is needed by all parties, according to their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, with developed countries taking the lead. The EU and India agreed to work together bilaterally to accelerate their countries' transitions towards a low carbon economy, eg in the context of the EU-India Joint Initiative on Clean Development and Climate Change. They agreed the importance to sustainable development of synergies between energy security, sustainable energy supply, improved air quality, innovation and action to tackle climate change. They agreed on the importance of private sector engagement and investment in tackling climate change.

26. The two sides reiterated their commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. They are committed to moving forward in the UN forum and called on all parties to actively and constructively participate in the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Bali in December 2007. They also agreed that an integrated approach to climate change and energy is crucial, and particularly stressed the need to exploit the synergies between the promotion of energy security, improved air quality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to ensure consistency between meeting the ultimate objectives of the UNFCCC and energy policy and economic growth and development goals. They emphasised the importance of a post-2012 agreement for GHG reduction commitments by developed countries in facilitating significant cost reductions of clean technologies and their transfer, deployment and dissemination, as well strengthening the global carbon market and intensifying cooperation on the adaptation to the increasing adverse impacts of climate change.

27. Recalling the importance of bilateral co-operation on global environmental challenges, including halting biodiversity loss and protection of forests, leaders agreed to step up coopera-

tion in the run-up to the 2008 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. They will also strengthen co-operation in other areas such as the environmentally sound management of waste, including in the preparation of the 9th Conference of the Basel Convention on hazardous waste. The EU-India Environment Forum has been a useful mechanism for the sharing of expertise among business, academia and civil society and both sides look forward to the 2008 Environment Forum on chemicals as well as working together in multilateral fora related to chemicals and cooperation between various relevant conventions.

28. The leaders agreed to develop a joint work programme covering the key areas of energy, environment, research and climate change, to promote ongoing and future co-operation in these areas of growing importance to both sides.

29. India and the EU welcomed the steps taken by the European Investment Bank in India to establish loan-based project funding under its new Asia lending mandate, and in particular with reference to the financing instrument supporting projects in the fields of energy sustainability and climate change mitigation. They encouraged closer cooperation between the EIB and its relevant counterparts in India to work towards establishing financing for specific investment projects.

30. In recognition of the critical role of science and technology in striving towards their respective knowledge-based economies, leaders expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of the India-EU Ministerial Science Conference from February 7-8, 2007. Its significant recommendations were for establishment of joint nodes for networking innovation systems, efforts towards creation of joint infrastructure for advanced research and funding systems for symmetric programmes for promotion of S&T collaboration. Within the framework of the India-EU S&T Cooperation Agreement renewed today, leaders would welcome strengthened partnership initiatives such as joint projects with co-investment of resources in selected fields of mutual priority. The two sides agreed to explore bilateral cooperation on space policies and programmes including global satellite navigation.

31. Given the healthy growth and potential in two-way trade, tourism, research and student exchanges, and business between the EU and India, the leaders recognised the importance of strengthening transportation links in order to further promote and facilitate exchanges. The leaders recalled the India-EU Aviation Summit that took place in New Delhi on 23-24 November 2006, which demonstrated the growing importance of India-EU civil aviation links and the excellent collaboration between Indian and EU aviation authorities and industries in civil aviation related sectors. The leaders looked forward to the finalisation of a mutually beneficial 'Horizontal Agreement' between the EU and India with a sense of urgency, as well as an agreement on the priorities for a new technical cooperation programme.

32. The leaders took note of the state of negotiations for a maritime transport agreement between India and the EU and expressed support to the continuation of the negotiation process with a view to conclusion of a mutually beneficial agreement at the earliest.

33. Leaders welcomed the strengthening of the EU-India dialogue and cooperation on employment and social policy on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 2006, including a first tripartite visit from India to the EU and the second EU-India seminar on employment and social policy held on 17-18 September 2007 in Lisbon, which provided a high-level policy forum for tripartite discussion on major challenges and further cooperation on social security and social protection. They highlighted the importance of the involvement of social partners in this dialogue.

34. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral economic cooperation and took note of policy dialogues in areas of mutual interest. They noted with satisfaction the study visit carried out by experts from the European Commission and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which has contributed to a better understanding of the Ayurveda system in order to advance the ongoing regulatory dialogue on the pharmaceutical sector.

35. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the establishment of a regular macro-economic dialogue within the broad context of EU-India economic cooperation, the first meeting of which was held in New Delhi on 12 July 2007. The leaders noted that the dialogue, would provide a forum in which both parties could discuss economic developments and policy challenges in their respective economies as well as developments in the regional and the world economy at large, and learn from each other's experience with economic reform. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the continuation of their financial services regulatory dialogue. Recognising the benefits of closer cooperation in fostering the protection and promotion of intellectual property rights, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to develop an active dialogue in this field, including cooperation on capacity building activities, human resource development and public awareness programmes.

36. The leaders expressed their support to further enhancement of cooperation in the field of culture including through stepped up activities of organisations such as the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Indian cluster of the European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC). Both sides stressed the importance of academic cooperation and in this context valued highly the exchanges under the Erasmus Mundus programme. Both sides expressed deep commitment to the preservation and fostering of cultural diversity and welcomed the ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The sides also stressed the importance of dialogue among cultures and civilisations in the new millennium. In this context, the sides reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in the field of cultural heritage, as well as programmes to promote exchanges in the arts.

37. The leaders noted the valuable contribution to bilateral relations made by the India-EU Civil Society Round Table which met most recently in Delhi in September 2007. They noted the value of enhanced participation by civil society in this forum.

INDIA-EU JOINT ACTION PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

1. The sixth India-EU Summit held in New Delhi (7 September 2005) endorsed a comprehensive Joint Action Plan (JAP) setting out a road map for India-EU interactions in diverse sectors. The seventh India-EU Summit held in Helsinki in October 2006 issued the first report on the progress of the implementation of the JAP. Given that the activities undertaken in the framework of the JAP constitute an important contribution to the Strategic Partnership, both sides take satisfaction in reporting the following achievements:

Strengthening dialogue and consultation mechanisms

2. Since the seventh India-EU Summit, the two sides have sustained high-level interactions and have taken forward strides in strengthening their dialogue.

3. The President of India visited Strasbourg on 25-26 April 2007 at the invitation of the President of the European Parliament. During the visit he addressed the European Parliament (EP) and met with the President of the European Parliament. In his address on the 'Dynamics of Unity of Nations' President Kalam projected the many similarities shared by India and the European Union as multi-cultural, multilinguistic and multi-religious entities. During the visit the President also addressed the International Space University at Strasbourg on 'Creative Leadership for Future Challenges of Space'.

4. During the reporting period there have been two Senior Officials meetings and a meeting of the Joint Commission to review the progress made on the JAP. Meetings under other consultation mechanisms have also taken place, viz the India-EU Energy Panel and its Joint Working Groups, Security Dialogue, sectoral Working Groups on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology; Agriculture and Marine Products; Food Processing; Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues.

Political dialogue and co-operation

5. The EU was associated with SAARC as an Observer State and attended the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on 1-4 April 2007 in order to share experiences regarding ongoing integration processes.

6. In the field of effective multilateralism, India and the EU cooperated closely. Both sides encouraged the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council, of which presently India and seven EU Member States are currently members. Both sides also encouraged the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, which has India and seven EU Member States as well as the European Community among the members of its organisational committee. Both sides have held various consultations in New York and Geneva to discuss topics of common interest. Both sides reiterated their resolve to continue working together in multilateral fora to further common interests. Both sides also agreed to intensify dialogue on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict assistance, three areas where their respective contributions are crucial to UN activities.

7. India's External Affairs Minister, H.E. Mr Pranab Mukherjee, participated for the first time in the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hamburg, Germany in May 2007. The EU welcomed India's participation in the ASEM meeting and reiterated its endorsement of the incor-

poration of India in the fold of the ASEM process of dialogue and co-operation linking the EU and Asia. The EU-India ministerial Troika meeting on 31 May 2007 in Berlin was an opportunity to take stock of recent progress in the implementation of the Strategic Partnership and to discuss how to further intensify it.

8. The second meeting of the India-EU Security Dialogue was held in Berlin on 2 May 2007. The two sides had fruitful discussions on global and regional security issues, disarmament and non-proliferation.

9. The India-EU human rights dialogue, with the participation of EU Ambassadors, was held in New Delhi on 12 December 2006. An India-EU experts seminar on minorities was also held in New Delhi on 16 March 2007.

10. Both sides continue to share concern at the scourge of terror that has affected both India and the countries of the EU. The issue was discussed between the two sides at various levels. The sixth India-EU consultations on terrorism took place in Brussels in December 2005. Both sides decided to have the next meeting in 2008.

Bringing together people and cultures

11. The India-EU Civil Society Round Table continues to be a useful forum for involving civil society stakeholders in the Strategic Partnership. The eleventh meeting of Round table was held in September 2007 in New Delhi. The members discussed issues of social development, trade and investment, and renewable energy. The India-EU Civil Society Internet Forum was launched on 1 May 2007, by Mr Anand Sharma, India's Minister of State for External Affairs.

12. The India-EU Joint Working Group on Consular Affairs held its meeting in New Delhi on 8 December 2006 to discuss consular and visa services.

13. Both sides welcome the intensification of India-EU parliamentary exchanges. The European Parliament created a new Delegation for Relations with India in March 2007. Ms Neena Gill is Chairperson of the Delegation.

14. There has been a substantial increase in the number of scholarships awarded under the Erasmus Mundus India Window during the last year. A European Higher Education Fair was organized in Delhi on 24-26 November 2006 as well as the Asia Link Symposium on 24 November 2006, also in Delhi, on academic exchanges and mobility. The two sides firmly intend to cooperate further in this field.

15. Cultural initiatives have been organized by both sides. The Presidency of the European Union organized the European Union Film Festival 2007 in various cities in India i.e. New Delhi (27 April-04 May), Pune (04-11 May), Calicut / Kozhikode (14-18 May) and Kolkata (19-24 May).

Economic policy dialogue and co-operation

16. All the Joint Working Groups (JWG) conceptualized under JAP have been established. The first meeting of the India-EU JWG on Agriculture and Marine Products was held in New Delhi in February 2007. The second meeting of the JWG on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards/Technical Barriers to Trade (SPS/TBT) was held in Brussels in October 2007. The meeting was useful in providing a better understanding of various regulatory issues. The first meeting of the JWG on Food Processing was held in November 2006.

17. The first EU-India Ministerial Science Conference took place in New Delhi in February 2007. The meeting had a strong representation from EU Member States, from Science & Technology (S&T) Departments, and from leading scientists from both India and the EU. This was the first time that EU Member States and the EC met in a science ministerial conference outside the EU. The meeting allowed for an active discussion on key co-operation priorities, and on the potential benefits of a Coordinated Joint Call for proposals with co-investment of resources, including funds for sponsoring India-EU research projects and means to deepen EU-India S&T collaboration under the India-EU S&T Co-operation Agreement and the seventh Framework Programme. An open interactive session was held with a large number of Indian students as well as a meeting with leading CEOs from various sectors. The outcome was the 'New Delhi Communiqué', which outlined the future of India-EU cooperation in Research and Development. In particular, leaders welcomed the expected renewal this year of the successful India-EU Science and Technology Agreement of 2002.

18. The fourth Meeting of the EU-India Science and Technology Steering Committee took place on 8 November 2007 in New Delhi. At the meeting a road map was established for S&T co-operation from 2008 onwards, which will include Strategic Workshops in India on New and Renewable Energy, and the transfer of European experience and best practices on innovation through networks and centres. The EU and India are now expected to launch their first-ever 'Coordinated Joint Call for Proposals', which will be on computational material science.

19. The first India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue took place in New Delhi on 12 July 2007. The two sides discussed their macroeconomic situations and policies. They also agreed to hold the second EU-India Macroeconomic Dialogue in 2008 in Brussels. Following the successful first meeting of the Financial Services dialogue meeting in June 2006, both sides look forward to the second meeting to be held in New Delhi in 2008.

20. The second India-EU Environment Forum on 'Waste Management – A Cradle to Grave Approach' was convened in Delhi on 7 December 2006. The Action Plan Support Facility Financing Agreement was signed with Government of India on 2 March 2007 and the environment component of this programme is currently being put in place. The EC-India Joint Working Group on Environment met on 9-10 July 2007 in Brussels. The meeting discussed a wide range of issues and identified areas for further co-operation.

21. Clean Development and Climate Change: An International conference on 'Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change', jointly organised by the European Commission, the Indian Ministry of the Environment and Forests, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies, was held in New Delhi in December 2006. The India-EU Climate Change Research workshop took place in February 2007 in New Delhi. The India-EC JWG on Environment held in July 2007 in Brussels had useful discussions on climate change.

22. Energy is an important area of ongoing and future policy dialogue and practical co-operation between India and the EU. The two sides noted the valuable contribution of the India-EU Energy Panel and its working groups, which had its third meeting on 20 June 2007 in Brussels. All four working groups met in the first half of 2007 before the meeting of Energy Panel. It was agreed to expand the scope of work of the working group on Coal with alternate meetings adopting different emphasis on mining oriented and conversion technologies respectively. The two sides stand ready to identify a new flagship project on R&D in solar energy. It was also decided to commence four EU-funded studies under the various JWGS in 2008, with a fifth study carried to be out by India. India is also a participant in the International Biofuels Forum,

which met twice so far: in July 2007 in Brussels and in October 2007 in New Delhi.

23. The fifth annual India-EU Joint Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) was held in September 2007 in New Delhi. The dialogue provided an opportunity to discuss policy, regulatory and research matters and define a concrete list of actions to enhance further our co-operation. On research, 22 Indian organisations were involved in 14 joint projects launched under the Information Society Technology (IST) programme in the sixth Framework Programme. To this end two workshops were also held in India in September 2007.

24. The first India-EU Aviation Summit was held successfully on 22-24 November 2006 in New Delhi. The Aviation Summit demonstrated the growing importance of EU-India relations in civil aviation and the excellent collaboration between EU and Indian aviation authorities and industries. A Joint Declaration was signed at the Civil Aviation Summit setting out a roadmap for future co-operation including the finalisation of the horizontal aviation agreement on a priority basis and the agreement on future technical co-operation in early 2007. On 22-23 October 2007, Civil Aviation Minister Mr Praful Patel and the European Commission's Vice-President Barrot met in Brussels to discuss civil aviation co-operation. Four rounds of discussions have taken place on the Civil Aviation Horizontal Agreement. Under the European Commission's new Indicative Programme of co-operation with India, a new programme on civil aviation co-operation is proposed which will build on the successful results of the previous 1999-2006 'India-EU Civil Aviation Co-operation Project'.

25. Two rounds of negotiations on the India-EU Maritime Agreement were successfully held in February 2007 in New Delhi and in July 2007 in Brussels. The negotiations have resulted in better understanding of the respective positions and progress towards a mutually beneficial conclusion of the negotiation process. Both parties look forward to the next round of negotiations which are expected to take place in New Delhi by early 2008.

26. Bilateral contacts were established between the European Commission, the European Space Agency, and the Indian Space Research Organisation during the International Astronautical Congress in Hyderabad on 24-28 September 2007. The discussions constituted the first dialogue and exchange of ideas on possible future co-operation priorities, and both sides expressed a willingness to undertake concrete joint co-operation activities.

27. The European Commission and representatives of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) carried out a visit to India in January 2007 to study the Ayurveda system of medicine and specific Ayurveda centers, to gain a better understanding of key regulatory aspects as well as other relevant aspects. The JWG on Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology held its second meeting in India in May 2007 at which the report of the study visit was presented.

28. A meeting of JWG on Agriculture and Marine products took place in New Delhi in February 2007 and discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest. Agriculture Commissioner Fischer Boel, accompanied by a delegation of top EU business executives from the agri-food sector, undertook a promotional visit to India in March 2007 with the aim of fostering and increasing business opportunities between India and EU. The focus of the visit was the 'International Aahar Food Fair' in New Delhi which the Commissioner jointly inaugurated with the Minister of Food Processing Industries.

29. The second Joint Customs Co-ordination Committee Meeting, held in December 2006 in Chennai, had useful discussions in the context of the Joint Customs Cooperation Agreement.

Both sides are committed to continue to implement cooperation in the customs area and customs-related IPR components of the Trade and Investment Development Programme.

30. The first India-EU seminar on employment and social policy on 'Skills Development, Training and Employment' took place in November 2006 in New Delhi. During his visit to India for the seminar, EC Employment Commissioner Dr Spidla signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the EC and the Indian Ministry of Labour. The second India-EU seminar on employment and social policy on 'Social security and social protection – key tools for sustainable and responsible growth and development', and a related Senior Officials Meeting, took place in September 2007 in Lisbon. A first high-level tripartite delegation from India visited Lisbon, Brussels and the UK's East Midlands area in September 2007.

31. The India-EU Business Summit held in Helsinki on 12 October 2006, formally established the India-EU CEO Round Table, constituting a forum for high-level CEOs from India and the EU to provide policy recommendations to leaders for the strengthening of the business partnership. In particular, both partners remain committed to continue intensive consultations with industry and business organisations. Investment Facilitation Desks have been set up under the India-EU Trade and Investment Development Programme with a view to facilitate the provision of information to European investors in India. The Commission also proposes to establish a European Business and Technology Centre in India which shall act as a vector for promoting industrial and research partnerships and cooperation between the EU and India in key sectors.

32. The European Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 for India, with an indicative total amount of Euro 470 million, which outlines the priorities and provides the financial framework for the funding of co-operation activities in India. In this context, an amount of Euro 260 million has been set aside for the first Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2007-2010. This covers programmes in the health sector, elementary education and implementation of the Joint Action Plan.

Developing Trade and Investment

33. The EU and India have conducted an active dialogue both at the political and technical level in order to re-launch the process of Doha with a view to successfully concluding the multi-lateral negotiating round, which would bring significant benefits to the global economy in terms of boosting trade and investment.

34. Based on the recommendations of the High Level Trade Group to the seventh India-EU Summit in October 2006 in Helsinki, negotiations for a broad based trade and investment agreement were opened in Brussels on 28-29 June 2007. A second round of negotiations took place in New Delhi during the first week of October 2007. The negotiations have been conducted in a constructive fashion and negotiators have been able to report good progress. The third round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 6-12 December, 2007.

35. The EU and India also continued their dialogue on bilateral trade issues in other forums, such as the EU-India SPS/TBT Working Group which met for the second time in Brussels in October 2007. The next meeting is foreseen to take place in spring in Delhi.

Javier Solana – ‘Countering globalisation’s dark side’

Autumn 2007

Europe’s key task in the first half of this century, says Javier Solana, will be to help create a new system of global governance that can resolve the growing frictions in our increasingly interdependent world.

When the European Union celebrated its 50th birthday earlier this year it also marked a half-century that has seen Europe transformed. This continent so long plagued by wars and confrontation has developed into a community of peace, democracy and prosperity. That we have stopped killing each other and starting to work together did not happen by itself. We built strong institutions and a community of law to make the integration process withstand the ebb and flow of political moods and personality clashes. We learned the hard way that peace and stability require common rules and institutions, non-stop negotiations and a sense of compromise.

We haven’t abolished nation states or their sovereignty, but we have changed their nature.

Sovereignty is no longer expressed by an army at the frontier but by a seat at the table. These successes are worth cherishing, yet there is a great deal more to be done. The peaceful unification of our continent has been our great achievement, and now our main challenge is to act as a credible force for good. From a continental agenda, we should move to a global agenda. From building peace in Europe to being a peace-builder in the world.

With respect to Europe’s global role, there is much that we have already achieved. Instead of just sending out a communiqué two weeks after a crisis we have expanded our capacity to respond to crises in real time. We have developed sophisticated crisis management concepts that bring together civilian and military instruments. We have forged a common strategic culture that enables us to respond early, rapidly and where necessary, robustly when a new crisis erupts. In short, there is a European way of looking at international problems and a shared doctrine on how to resolve them.

In the years ahead, we will have sharpened our crisis management performance in a more demanding security environment. But beyond crisis management we will also have to devote time, energy and resources to addressing longer-term challenges. Perhaps the most important of these will be to safeguard the capacity of the global system.

If truth be told, the global system is in a poor shape. What we are seeing is a growing mismatch between our security and economics, which are increasingly global in nature, and our politics which often remain national.

Few today would dispute that in a global, interdependent world, solutions to problems have to be forged at a global level. But the gap between this demand for ‘global governance’ and its supply is growing. Instead the multilateral system is under severe stress. Some of the old regimes on issues like nuclear non-proliferation are suffering from polarisation and distrust. On some of the new issues, such as cyber-crime or new forms of terrorism, attempts to build regimes, rules and institutions are still incomplete.

A key task for Europe for the next 50 years is therefore to protect and develop a system of strong institutions able to tackle the problems of a new age and to progressively build a rules-based international order. We will have to do so at a time when the world is moving to a system of continents. Hence, Europeans will only be able to project and protect their interests if they are united.

Global governance is an awful term but a vital concept. We need it because of a simple reality: interdependence. We live in a world where people, goods, ideas, money, threats and opportunities move at a global level and at increasing speed. What happens half-way round the world, in Afghanistan, Gaza or the Democratic Republic of Congo affects our own security and prosperity.

Globalisation offers millions of people a chance to live longer, healthier and better lives. But it has also unleashed forces that governments can neither control nor stop.

We are all familiar with the list: terrorism, nuclear weapons’ proliferation, climate change, poverty, pandemics, failing states. None can be solved by a single government acting alone. So the question is: how do we organise this globalised world? And especially how do we tackle the dark side of globalisation?

On the whole, our capacity to analyse problems is good. But even when we agree on what has to happen – take Israel-Palestine or Sudan/Darfur – we still don’t manage to translate that consensus into results on the ground. It is worth analysing why this is so. For that it is necessary to first explore how what we call ‘the international system’, came about.

After the failure of the League of Nations and the horrors of World War II people were ready to try something new. The multilateral system built after 1945 was revolutionary in design. Its organizing principle was that peace would be ensured through co-operation based on rules. This was something new. For centuries, international order had been maintained through a combination of the balance of power and empires. For periods this worked, although never for long and always at great costs.

After 1945, we instead built a system based on rules and strong institution. Of course, power, national interests and international rivalry had not been abolished. That would have been naïve and unworkable. But the defence of national interests was channelled through institutions. And the management of rivalries was made subject to written and unwritten rules.

The US played the leading role in shaping the system, and to do so was a deliberate and far-sighted choice. It is striking that Dean Acheson’s memoirs are called ‘Present at the Creation’. The US underwrote the system but agreed to be bound by it too.

Over time, the multilateral system developed, extending its functional scope and geographic reach.

In Europe, a successful sub-system emerged with the Coal and Steel Community and later the European Economic Community. Most striking here were the supra-national aspects. These demonstrated that the Europeans were willing in carefully defined areas, to go beyond the pure inter-state paradigm.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate how important this start of the integration process has been – both for Europe but also the history of international relations. All in all, this post-1945 international order worked very well. It helped to prevent the cold war from degenerating into a global war; and it promoted the political and economic integration of the West.

But today the international system is creaking because the world it was built for is no more. There are several reasons for this.

First, new problems have been emerging that the system was not meant to address. In the 19th century, the problems that industrialisation brought about were solved through a series of state interventions: from safety standards to sewage systems to banning child labour.

We now have to ask ourselves: what structures, beyond the state, do we possess that can help resolve the big problems of our times? We are dealing with complex security challenges that

defy traditional ways of operating, ranging from global warming to 'new identity politics' to cybercrime.

We also have to see the connections between different threats. In many ways, the Darfur conflict is the first time we have been made aware that a war is caused by climate change – and it will not be the last. So we need more integrated strategies to address these problems. In the old system, everyone was doing their own thing in their own corner. We now know that we must bring together the different worlds of soldiers, diplomats, judges and development experts.

More fundamentally, the system is not working because power is shifting within our political systems: to the media, to markets and above all to individuals. Gone are the days that governments, and with them political elites, could set the agenda and by themselves deliver the solutions.

These days, there is less obedience. Who wants to be a follower if you are constantly told you can be what you want to be? It is striking that in Britain, the slogan for the recruitment for the army has changed from 'Your country needs You' to 'Be all you can be'.

Power is also shifting between political systems: ebbing away from the West to new powers like China, India, Brazil, South Africa. It has almost become a cliché to point to the emergence of new political centres of power.

And finally, from the US we have seen a tendency to make its engagement in the multilateral system more selective. In recent years, the US has been more narrowly focused on short-term priorities and less willing to seek deeper trade-offs with other countries.

What are we to do? The first requirement of a more effective global governance is that the US should play an active and constructive role inside the system. I have a sense that in the US the tide is turning in favour of those who argue that working through multilateral organisations is the best way to get lasting results.

More broadly, we need to make space at the top table. Take the G-8. At present it does not really work effectively. If it is to become more effective it needs to be more representative, and that means changing its membership.

Why not make it a G-10 in which the ten major countries are represented based on a composite index of international weight (GDP, aid, soldiers and civilians deployed on peace support missions)? This would not only bring China and India in but also keep some current members on their toes...

Equally, we should make space at the UN Security Council for the new heavyweights. In turn, the new powers should keep in mind that with greater global influence comes greater responsibilities.

And to strengthen regional co-operation, could we at some point in the future have (semi)-permanent seats at the UNSC for Great Powers and regional organisations?

I am convinced that we need stronger regional organisations: the African Union, ASEAN and various Latin American structures. I also wonder whether the Middle East region will remain the big exception: over-armed, under-institutionalised and rife with tensions.

Then we will need to develop new bargains, balancing the interests of all relevant stakeholders.

Good examples are the environment and climate change. Or on forms of dialogues between cultures.

Sometimes we also need to be more serious about upholding our side of the old bargain. Take nonproliferation.

If we want to be credible on preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), we have to take the disarmament side and technology transfer sides of the bargain more seriously.

In addition, the multilateral system should not only address our immediate concerns. When we talk about non-proliferation we mostly mean WMD. But for many African or Asian leaders the most urgent proliferation problem is that of small arms and light weapons.

Above all, we must re-learn that the biggest shift in history came when we extended the rule of law.

First within states and now, gradually, between them. This gradual extension of the international rule of law has provided enormous benefits: taming the passions of states but also providing a legal framework to guide and regulate many cross-border activities. We should step up what we are already doing both regionally and in Europe, but also globally on such aspects of international life as the WTO’s dispute settlement system or the International Criminal Court. We have to extend both the geographic and functional reach of the international legal system.

To organise our increasingly globalised world, we in the West need to share power with new players, re-think power beyond the state paradigm and tame power by extending the rule of law internationally. And along with making the system of global governance more effective, we also need to make it more legitimate.

One big problem is that we all know that we live in a globalised world, but our politics remain local or national. This is a problem for those, like me, who are convinced that the world needs more global-level, multilateral co-operation. For I am also a democrat in believing that power has to be accountable. So the question becomes: how do you make global governance more effective while making it also democratically accountable?

A key benefit of acting multilaterally is legitimacy, which in turns enhances effectiveness. Once again, this means bringing in new centres of power. But legitimacy also means bringing our publics along. If decisions are increasingly taken at the international level, people have to see these as legitimate.

We therefore have two imperatives: to create greater effectiveness in global governance but also to uphold democratic legitimacy. To do so will be difficult as it requires new ideas and a sense of compromise. But I really see no real alternative.

What we are talking about is a global social contract, and some 250 year ago the French ‘enlightenment’ philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau got it right in his toweringly influential work ‘The Social Contract’, in which he wrote: ‘The strongest is never strong enough to be always the master, unless he transforms strength into right and obedience into duty.’

Europe’s World

Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community

Brussels, 3 December 2007

The European Council, meeting at Lisbon on 18 and 19 October 2007, approved the new reform treaty, known as the 'Treaty of Lisbon', which replaces the draft Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe. This treaty introduces amendments both to the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) and to the treaty establishing the European Community (Treaty of Rome). The final text was published on 3 December. The new treaty was signed on 13 and 14 December 2007, in Lisbon, by the 27 heads of state and government. In order to come into force, it has to be ratified by the 27 Member States before 1 January 2009.

18) An Article 9D shall be inserted:

'ARTICLE 9D

(...)

4. The Commission appointed between the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon and 31 October 2014 shall consist of one national of each Member State, including its President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy who shall be one of its Vice-Presidents.

5. As from 1 November 2014, the Commission shall consist of a number of members, including its President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, corresponding to two thirds of the number of Member States, unless the European Council, acting unanimously, decides to alter this number.

The members of the Commission shall be chosen from among the nationals of the Member States on the basis of a system of strictly equal rotation between the Member States, reflecting the demographic and geographical range of all the Member States. This system shall be established unanimously by the European Council in accordance with Article 211a of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

6. The President of the Commission shall:

- (a) lay down guidelines within which the Commission is to work;
- (b) decide on the internal organisation of the Commission, ensuring that it acts consistently, efficiently and as a collegiate body;
- (c) appoint Vice-Presidents, other than the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, from among the members of the Commission.

A member of the Commission shall resign if the President so requests. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall resign, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 9 E(1), if the President so requests.

7. Taking into account the elections to the European Parliament and after having held the appropriate consultations, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall propose to the European Parliament a candidate for President of the Commission. This candidate shall be elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members. If he does not obtain the required majority, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall within one month propose a new candidate who shall be elected by the European Parliament following the same procedure.

The Council, by common accord with the President-elect, shall adopt the list of the other

persons whom it proposes for appointment as members of the Commission. They shall be selected, on the basis of the suggestions made by Member States, in accordance with the criteria set out in paragraph 3, second subparagraph, and paragraph 5, second subparagraph.

The President, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the other members of the Commission shall be subject as a body to a vote of consent by the European Parliament. On the basis of this consent the Commission shall be appointed by the European Council, acting by a qualified majority.

8. The Commission, as a body, shall be responsible to the European Parliament. In accordance with Article 201 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Parliament may vote on a motion of censure of the Commission. If such a motion is carried, the members of the Commission shall resign as a body and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall resign from the duties that he carries out in the Commission.'

19) The following new Article 9 E shall be inserted:

‘ARTICLE 9 E

1. The European Council, acting by a qualified majority, with the agreement of the President of the Commission, shall appoint the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The European Council may end his term of office by the same procedure.

2. The High Representative shall conduct the Union's common foreign and security policy.

He shall contribute by his proposals to the development of that policy, which he shall carry out as mandated by the Council. The same shall apply to the common security and defence policy.

3. The High Representative shall preside over the Foreign Affairs Council.

4. The High Representative shall be one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission. He shall ensure the consistency of the Union's external action. He shall be responsible within the Commission for responsibilities incumbent on it in external relations and for coordinating other aspects of the Union's external action. In exercising these responsibilities within the Commission, and only for these responsibilities, the High Representative shall be bound by Commission procedures to the extent that this is consistent with paragraphs 2 and 3.'

(...)

23) Title V shall be renamed as follows: **‘GENERAL PROVISIONS ON THE UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION AND SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ON THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY’**.

GENERAL PROVISIONS ON THE UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION

24) The following new Chapter 1 and Articles 10 A and 10 B shall be inserted:

‘CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS ON THE UNION'S EXTERNAL ACTION

ARTICLE 10 A

1. The Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: 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 shall seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries, and international, regional or global organisations which share the principles referred to in the first subparagraph. It shall promote multilateral solutions to common problems, in particular in the framework of the United Nations.

2. The Union shall define and pursue common policies and actions, and shall work for a high degree of cooperation in all fields of international relations, in order to:

- (a) safeguard its values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity;
- (b) consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law;
- (c) preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and with the aims of the Charter of Paris, including those relating to external borders;
- (d) foster the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty;
- (e) encourage the integration of all countries into the world economy, including through the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade;
- (f) help develop international measures to preserve and improve the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of global natural resources, in order to ensure sustainable development;
- (g) assist populations, countries and regions confronting natural or man-made disasters; and
- (h) promote an international system based on stronger multilateral cooperation and good global governance.

3. The Union shall respect the principles and pursue the objectives set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 in the development and implementation of the different areas of the Union's external action covered by this Title and by Part Five of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and of the external aspects of its other policies. The Union shall ensure consistency between the different areas of its external action and between these and its other policies. The Council and the Commission, assisted by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, shall ensure that consistency and shall cooperate to that effect.

ARTICLE 10 B

1. On the basis of the principles and objectives set out in Article 10 A, the European Council shall identify the strategic interests and objectives of the Union.

Decisions of the European Council on the strategic interests and objectives of the Union shall relate to the common foreign and security policy and to other areas of the external action of the Union. Such decisions may concern the relations of the Union with a specific country or region or may be thematic in approach. They shall define their duration, and the means to be made available by the Union and the Member States.

The European Council shall act unanimously on a recommendation from the Council, adopted by the latter under the arrangements laid down for each area. Decisions of the European Council shall be implemented in accordance with the procedures provided for in the Treaties.

2. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, for the area of common foreign and security policy, and the Commission, for other areas of external action, may submit joint proposals to the Council.'

THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

25) The following headings shall be inserted:

‘CHAPTER 2
SPECIFIC PROVISIONS ON THE COMMON FOREIGN
AND SECURITY POLICY
SECTION 1
COMMON PROVISIONS’.

26) The following new Article 10 C shall be inserted:

ARTICLE 10 C

The Union’s action on the international scene, pursuant to this Chapter, shall be guided by the principles, shall pursue the objectives of, and be conducted in accordance with, the general provisions laid down in Chapter 1.’.

27) Article 11 shall be amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 shall be replaced by the following two paragraphs:

‘1. The Union’s competence in matters of common foreign and security policy shall cover all areas of foreign policy and all questions relating to the Union’s security, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy that might lead to a common defence.

The common foreign and security policy is subject to specific rules and procedures. It shall be defined and implemented by the European Council and the Council acting unanimously, except where the Treaties provide otherwise. The adoption of legislative acts shall be excluded. The common foreign and security policy shall be put into effect by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and by Member States, in accordance with the Treaties. The specific role of the European Parliament and of the Commission in this area is defined by the Treaties. The Court of Justice of the European Union shall not have jurisdiction with respect to these provisions, with the exception of its jurisdiction to monitor compliance with Article 25b of this Treaty and to review the legality of certain decisions as provided for by the second paragraph of Article 240a of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

2. Within the framework of the principles and objectives of its external action, the Union shall conduct, define and implement a common foreign and security policy, based on the development of mutual political solidarity among Member States, the identification of questions of general interest and the achievement of an ever-increasing degree of convergence of Member States’ actions.’;

(b) paragraph 2, renumbered 3, shall be amended as follows:

(i) The following words shall be added at the end of the first subparagraph:

‘and shall comply with the Union’s action in this area.’;

(ii) the third subparagraph shall be replaced by ‘The Council and the High Representative shall ensure compliance with these principles.’.

28) Article 12 shall be replaced by the following:

‘ARTICLE 12

The Union shall conduct the common foreign and security policy by:

(a) defining the general guidelines;

- (b) adopting decisions defining:
 - (i) actions to be undertaken by the Union;
 - (ii) positions to be taken by the Union;
 - (iii) arrangements for the implementation of the decisions referred to in points (i) and (ii);
 and by
 - (c) strengthening systematic cooperation between Member States in the conduct of policy.’.

29) Article 13 shall be amended as follows:

- (a) in paragraph 1, the words ‘define the principles of and general guidelines for’ shall be replaced by ‘identify the Union’s strategic interests, determine the objectives of and define general guidelines for’ and the following sentence shall be added: ‘It shall adopt the necessary decisions.’. The following subparagraph shall be inserted:

‘If international developments so require, the President of the European Council shall convene an extraordinary meeting of the European Council in order to define the strategic lines of the Union’s policy in the face of such developments.’;

- (b) paragraph 2 shall be deleted and paragraph 3 shall be renumbered 2. The first subparagraph shall be replaced by the following: ‘The Council shall frame the common foreign and security policy and take the decisions necessary for defining and implementing it on the basis of the general guidelines and strategic lines defined by the European Council.’ The second subparagraph shall be deleted. In the third subparagraph, which shall become the second, the words ‘shall ensure’ shall be replaced by ‘and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall ensure’;

- (c) the following new paragraph shall be inserted:

‘3. The common foreign and security policy shall be put into effect by the High Representative and by the Member States, using national and Union resources.’.

30) The following new Article 13a shall be inserted:

‘ARTICLE 13a

1. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who shall chair the Foreign Affairs Council, shall contribute through his proposals towards the preparation of the common foreign and security policy and shall ensure implementation of the decisions adopted by the European Council and the Council.

2. The High Representative shall represent the Union for matters relating to the common foreign and security policy. He shall conduct political dialogue with third parties on the Union’s behalf and shall express the Union’s position in international organisations and at international conferences.

3. 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.’.

31) Article 14 shall be amended as follows:

- (a) in paragraph 1, the first two sentences shall be replaced by the following sentence:

‘Where the international situation requires operational action by the Union, the Council shall adopt the necessary decisions.’;

(b) paragraph 2 shall become the second subparagraph of paragraph 1, and the other paragraphs shall be renumbered accordingly. In the first sentence, the words ‘to joint action,’ shall be replaced by ‘to such a decision,’ and the words ‘that action’ shall be replaced by ‘that decision’. The last sentence shall be deleted;

(c) in paragraph 3, renumbered 2, the words ‘Joint actions’ shall be replaced by ‘Decisions referred to in paragraph 1’;

(d) the current paragraph 4 shall be deleted and the remaining paragraphs shall be renumbered accordingly;

(e) in the first sentence of paragraph 5, renumbered 3, the words ‘pursuant to a joint action, information shall be provided in time to allow,’ shall be replaced by ‘pursuant to a decision as referred to in paragraph 1, information shall be provided by the Member State concerned in time to allow,’;

(f) in the first sentence of paragraph 6, renumbered 4, the words ‘failing a Council decision,’ shall be replaced by ‘failing a review of the Council decision as referred to in paragraph 1,’ and the words ‘of the joint action’ shall be replaced by ‘of that decision’;

(g) in paragraph 7, renumbered 5, the words ‘joint action’ in the first sentence shall be replaced by ‘decision as referred to in this Article’ and in the second sentence by ‘decision referred to in paragraph 1’.

32) At the beginning of Article 15, the words ‘The Council shall adopt common positions. Common positions shall define’ shall be replaced by ‘The Council shall adopt decisions which shall define’ and at the end of the Article the words ‘common positions’ shall be replaced by ‘Union positions’.

33) An Article 15a shall be inserted, with the text of Article 22, with the following amendments:

(a) in paragraph 1, the words ‘Any Member State or the Commission may refer to the Council any question relating to the common foreign and security policy’ shall be replaced by ‘Any Member State, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, or the High Representative with the Commission’s support, may refer any question relating to the common foreign and security policy to the Council’ and the words ‘submit proposals to the Council’ shall be replaced by ‘submit to it initiatives or proposals as appropriate’;

(b) in paragraph 2, the words ‘the Presidency, of its own motion,’ shall be replaced by ‘the High Representative, of his own motion’ and the words ‘, or at the request of the Commission or a Member State,’ shall be replaced by ‘, or at the request of a Member State,’.

34) An Article 15b shall be inserted, with the text of Article 23, with the following amendments:

(a) in paragraph 1, the first subparagraph shall be replaced by the following: ‘Decisions under this Chapter shall be taken by the European Council and the Council acting unanimously, except where this Chapter provides otherwise. The adoption of legislative acts shall be excluded.’ and the last sentence in the second subparagraph shall be replaced by the following: ‘If the members of the Council qualifying their abstention in this way represent at least one third of the Member States comprising at least one third of the population of the Union, the decision shall not be adopted.’;

(b) paragraph 2 shall be amended as follows:

(i) the first indent shall be replaced by the following two indents:

‘ - when adopting a decision defining a Union action or position on the basis of a decision

of the European Council relating to the Union's strategic interests and objectives, as referred to in Article 10 B(1), – when adopting a decision defining a Union action or position, on a proposal which the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has presented following a specific request from the European Council, made on its own initiative or that of the High Representative,;

(ii) in the second indent, which shall become the third indent, the words 'a joint action or a common position,' shall be replaced by 'a decision defining a Union action or position,';

(iii) in the second subparagraph, first sentence, the word 'important' shall be replaced by 'vital'; the last sentence shall be replaced by the following: 'The High Representative will, in close consultation with the Member State involved, search for a solution acceptable to it. If he does not succeed, the Council may, acting by a qualified majority, request that the matter be referred to the European Council for a decision by unanimity.';

(iv) the third subparagraph shall be replaced by the following new paragraph 3, the last subparagraph shall become paragraph 4 and paragraph 3 shall be renumbered 5:

'3. The European Council may unanimously adopt a decision stipulating that the Council shall act by a qualified majority in cases other than those referred to in paragraph 2.';

(c) in the paragraph now numbered 4, the words 'This paragraph shall not apply' shall be replaced by 'Paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not apply'.

35) Article 16 shall be amended as follows:

(a) the words 'inform and' shall be deleted, the words 'within the Council' shall be replaced by 'within the European Council and the Council' and the words 'in order to ensure that the Union's influence is exerted as effectively as possible by means of concerted and convergent action' shall be replaced by 'in order to determine a common approach';

(b) the following sentences shall be added after the first sentence: 'Before undertaking any action on the international scene or entering into any commitment which could affect the Union's interests, each Member State shall consult the others within the European Council or the Council. Member States shall ensure, through the convergence of their actions, that the Union is able to assert its interests and values on the international scene. Member States shall show mutual solidarity.';

(c) the following two paragraphs shall be added:

'When the European Council or the Council has defined a common approach of the Union within the meaning of the first paragraph, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States shall coordinate their activities within the Council.

The diplomatic missions of the Member States and the Union delegations in third countries and at international organisations shall cooperate and shall contribute to formulating and implementing the common approach.'

36) The text of Article 17 shall become Article 28 A, it shall be amended as set out below in point 49.

37) Article 18 shall be amended as follows:

(a) paragraphs 1 to 4 shall be deleted;

(b) in paragraph 5, which shall not be numbered, the words 'whenever it deems it necessary,' shall be replaced by 'on a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy' and the following sentence shall be added at the end: 'The special representative shall carry out his mandate under the authority of the High Representative.'

38) Article 19 shall be amended as follows:

(a) in paragraph 1, the words ‘the common positions’ shall be replaced by ‘the Union’s positions’ in the first and second subparagraphs and the following sentence shall be added at the end of the first subparagraph: ‘The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall organise this coordination.’;

(b) paragraph 2 shall be amended as follows:

(i) in the first subparagraph, the words ‘Without prejudice to paragraph 1 and Article 14(3),’ shall be replaced by ‘In accordance with Article 11(3),’ and the words ‘the latter’ shall be replaced by ‘the other Member States and the High Representative’;

(ii) in the second subparagraph, first sentence, the words ‘and the High Representative’ shall be inserted after ‘the other Member States’; in the second sentence, the word ‘permanent’ shall be deleted and the words ‘ensure the defence of the positions’ shall be replaced by ‘defend the positions’;

(iii) the following new third subparagraph shall be added:

‘When the Union has defined a position on a subject which is on the United Nations Security Council agenda, those Member States which sit on the Security Council shall request that the High Representative be invited to present the Union’s position.’

39) Article 20 shall be amended as follows:

(a) in the first paragraph, the words ‘Commission delegations’ shall be replaced by ‘Union delegations’ and the words ‘the common positions and joint actions adopted by the Council’ shall be replaced by ‘decisions defining Union positions and actions adopted pursuant to this Chapter’;

(b) in the second paragraph, the words ‘information, carrying out joint assessments’ shall be replaced by ‘information and carrying out joint assessments’ and the words ‘and contributing to the implementation of the provisions referred to in Article 20 of the Treaty establishing the European Community’ shall be deleted;

(c) the following new paragraph shall be added:

‘They shall contribute to the implementation of the right of citizens of the Union to protection in the territory of third countries as referred to in Article 17(2)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and of the measures adopted pursuant to Article 20 of that Treaty.’

40) Article 21 shall be amended as follows:

(a) the first paragraph shall be replaced by the following:

‘The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall regularly consult the European Parliament on the main aspects and the basic choices of the common foreign and security policy and the common security and defence policy and inform it of how those policies evolve. He shall ensure that the views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration. Special representatives may be involved in briefing the European Parliament.’;

(b) in the second paragraph, first sentence, the words ‘and to the High Representative’ shall be inserted at the end; in the second sentence, the words ‘It shall hold an annual debate’ shall be replaced by ‘Twice a year it shall hold a debate’ and the words ‘, including the common security and defence policy’ shall be inserted at the end.

41) The text of Article 22 shall become Article 15a; it shall be amended as set out above in point 33.

42) The text of Article 23 shall become Article 15b; it shall be amended as set out above in point 34.

43) Article 24 shall be replaced by the following:

‘ARTICLE 24

The Union may conclude agreements with one or more States or international organisations in areas covered by this Chapter.’

44) Article 25 shall be amended as follows:

(a) in the first paragraph, first sentence, the reference to the Treaty establishing the European Community shall be replaced by a reference to the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union and the words ‘or of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy’ shall be inserted after ‘at the request of the Council’; in the second sentence, the words ‘without prejudice to the responsibility of the Presidency and the Commission’ shall be replaced by ‘without prejudice to the powers of the High Representative’;

(b) the text of the second paragraph shall be replaced by the following: ‘Within the scope of this Chapter, the Political and Security Committee shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council and of the High Representative, the political control and strategic direction of the crisis management operations referred to in Article 28 B.’;

(c) in the third paragraph, the words ‘, without prejudice to Article 47’ shall be deleted.

45) Articles 26 and 27 shall be repealed. The following Articles 25a and 25b shall be inserted, with Article 25b replacing Article 47:

‘ARTICLE 25a

In accordance with Article 16 B of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and by way of derogation from paragraph 2 thereof, the Council shall adopt a decision laying down the rules relating to the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Member States when carrying out activities which fall within the scope of this Chapter, and the rules relating to the free movement of such data. Compliance with these rules shall be subject to the control of independent authorities.

ARTICLE 25b

The implementation of the common foreign and security policy shall not affect the application of the procedures and the extent of the powers of the institutions laid down by the Treaties for the exercise of the Union competences referred to in Articles 2 B to 2 E of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Similarly, the implementation of the policies listed in those Articles shall not affect the application of the procedures and the extent of the powers of the institutions laid down by the Treaties for the exercise of the Union competences under this Chapter.’

46) Articles 27 A to 27 E, on enhanced cooperation, shall be replaced by Article 10 in accordance with point 22 above.

47) Article 28 shall be amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 1 shall be deleted and the remaining paragraphs shall be renumbered accordingly; throughout the Article the words ‘budget of the European Communities’ shall be replaced by ‘Union budget’;

(b) in paragraph 2, renumbered 1, the words ‘which the provisions relating to the areas referred

to in this Title entail' shall be replaced by 'to which the implementation of this Chapter gives rise';

(c) in paragraph 3, renumbered 2, the words 'the implementation of those provisions' in the first subparagraph shall be replaced by 'the implementation of this Chapter';

(d) the following new paragraph 3 shall be added and paragraph 4 deleted:

'3. The Council shall adopt a decision establishing the specific procedures for guaranteeing rapid access to appropriations in the Union budget for urgent financing of initiatives in the framework of the common foreign and security policy, and in particular for preparatory activities for the tasks referred to in Article 28 A(1) and Article 28 B. It shall act after consulting the European Parliament.

Preparatory activities for the tasks referred to in Article 28 A(1) and Article 28 B which are not charged to the Union budget shall be financed by a start-up fund made up of Member States' contributions.

The Council shall adopt by a qualified majority, on a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, decisions establishing:

- (a) the procedures for setting up and financing the start-up fund, in particular the amounts allocated to the fund;
- (b) the procedures for administering the start-up fund;
- (c) the financial control procedures.

When the task planned in accordance with Article 28 A(1) and Article 28 B cannot be charged to the Union budget, the Council shall authorise the High Representative to use the fund. The High Representative shall report to the Council on the implementation of this remit.'

THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

48) The following new section 2 shall be inserted:

'SECTION 2 PROVISIONS ON THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY'

49) An Article 28 A shall be inserted, taking over the wording of Article 17, with the following amendments:

- (a) the following new paragraph 1 shall be inserted and the next paragraph shall be renumbered 2:

'1. The common security and defence policy shall be an integral part of the common foreign and security policy. It shall provide the Union with an operational capacity drawing on civilian and military assets. The Union may use them on missions outside the Union for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The performance of these tasks shall be undertaken using capabilities provided by the Member States.';
- (b) paragraph 1, renumbered 2, shall be amended as follows:
 - (i) the first subparagraph shall be replaced by the following:

'2. The common security and defence policy shall include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy. This will lead to a common defence, when the European Council, acting unanimously, so decides. It shall in that case recommend to the Member States the adoption of such a decision in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.';
 - (ii) in the second subparagraph, the words 'in accordance with this Article' shall be replaced by

‘in accordance with this Section’;

(iii) the third subparagraph shall be deleted.

(c) the present paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall be replaced by the following paragraphs 3 to 7:

‘3. Member States shall make civilian and military capabilities available to the Union for the implementation of the common security and defence policy, to contribute to the objectives defined by the Council. Those Member States which together establish multinational forces may also make them available to the common security and defence policy.

Member States shall undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities. The Agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments (hereinafter referred to as ‘the European Defence Agency’) shall identify operational requirements, shall promote measures to satisfy those requirements, shall contribute to identifying and, where appropriate, implementing any measure needed to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector, shall participate in defining a European capabilities and armaments policy, and shall assist the Council in evaluating the improvement of military capabilities.

4. Decisions relating to the common security and defence policy, including those initiating a mission as referred to in this Article, shall be adopted by the Council acting unanimously on a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy or an initiative from a Member State. The High Representative may propose the use of both national resources and Union instruments, together with the Commission where appropriate.

5. The Council may entrust the execution of a task, within the Union framework, to a group of Member States in order to protect the Union’s values and serve its interests.

The execution of such a task shall be governed by Article 28 C.

6. Those Member States whose military capabilities fulfil higher criteria and which have made more binding commitments to one another in this area with a view to the most demanding missions shall establish permanent structured cooperation within the Union framework. Such cooperation shall be governed by Article 28 E. It shall not affect the provisions of Article 28 B.

7. If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. This shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States.

Commitments and cooperation in this area shall be consistent with commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which, for those States which are members of it, remains the foundation of their collective defence and the forum for its implementation.’

50) The following new Articles 28 B to 28 E shall be inserted:

‘ARTICLE 28 B

1. The tasks referred to in Article 28 A(1), in the course of which the Union may use civilian and military means, shall include joint disarmament operations, humanitarian and rescue tasks, military advice and assistance tasks, conflict prevention and peace-keeping tasks, tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peace-making and post-conflict stabilisation. All these tasks may contribute to the fight against terrorism, including by supporting third countries in combating terrorism in their territories.

2. The Council shall adopt decisions relating to the tasks referred to in paragraph 1, defining

their objectives and scope and the general conditions for their implementation. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, acting under the authority of the Council and in close and constant contact with the Political and Security Committee, shall ensure coordination of the civilian and military aspects of such tasks.

ARTICLE 28 C

1. Within the framework of the decisions adopted in accordance with Article 28 B, the Council may entrust the implementation of a task to a group of Member States which are willing and have the necessary capability for such a task. Those Member States, in association with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, shall agree among themselves on the management of the task.

2. Member States participating in the task shall keep the Council regularly informed of its progress on their own initiative or at the request of another Member State. Those States shall inform the Council immediately should the completion of the task entail major consequences or require amendment of the objective, scope and conditions determined for the task in the decisions referred to in paragraph 1. In such cases, the Council shall adopt the necessary decisions.

ARTICLE 28 D

1. The European Defence Agency referred to in Article 28 A(3), subject to the authority of the Council, shall have as its task to:

- (a) contribute to identifying the Member States' military capability objectives and evaluating observance of the capability commitments given by the Member States;
- (b) promote harmonisation of operational needs and adoption of effective, compatible procurement methods;
- (c) propose multilateral projects to fulfil the objectives in terms of military capabilities, ensure coordination of the programmes implemented by the Member States and management of specific cooperation programmes;
- (d) support defence technology research, and coordinate and plan joint research activities and the study of technical solutions meeting future operational needs;
- (e) contribute to identifying and, if necessary, implementing any useful measure for strengthening the industrial and technological base of the defence sector and for improving the effectiveness of military expenditure.

2. The European Defence Agency shall be open to all Member States wishing to be part of it. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall adopt a decision defining the Agency's statute, seat and operational rules. That decision should take account of the level of effective participation in the Agency's activities. Specific groups shall be set up within the Agency bringing together Member States engaged in joint projects. The Agency shall carry out its tasks in liaison with the Commission where necessary.

ARTICLE 28 E

1. Those Member States which wish to participate in the permanent structured cooperation referred to in Article 28 A(6), which fulfil the criteria and have made the commitments on military capabilities set out in the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation, shall notify their intention to the Council and to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

2. Within three months following the notification referred to in paragraph 1 the Council shall adopt a decision establishing permanent structured cooperation and determining the list of participating Member States. The Council shall act by a qualified majority after consulting the High Representative.

3. Any Member State which, at a later stage, wishes to participate in the permanent structured cooperation shall notify its intention to the Council and to the High Representative.

The Council shall adopt a decision confirming the participation of the Member State concerned which fulfils the criteria and makes the commitments referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation. The Council shall act by a qualified majority after consulting the High Representative. Only members of the Council representing the participating Member States shall take part in the vote.

A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 205(3)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

4. If a participating Member State no longer fulfils the criteria or is no longer able to meet the commitments referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation, the Council may adopt a decision suspending the participation of the Member State concerned.

The Council shall act by a qualified majority. Only members of the Council representing the participating Member States, with the exception of the Member State in question, shall take part in the vote.

A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 205(3)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

5. Any participating Member State which wishes to withdraw from permanent structured cooperation shall notify its intention to the Council, which shall take note that the Member State in question has ceased to participate.

6. The decisions and recommendations of the Council within the framework of permanent structured cooperation, other than those provided for in paragraphs 2 to 5, shall be adopted by unanimity. For the purposes of this paragraph, unanimity shall be constituted by the votes of the representatives of the participating Member States only.’

51) Articles 29 to 39 of Title VI, which relate to judicial cooperation in criminal matters and to police cooperation, shall be replaced by the provisions of Chapters 1, 4 and 5 of Title IV of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. As set out below, in Article 2, points 64, 67 and 68 of this Treaty, Article 29 shall be replaced by Article 61 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Article 30 shall be replaced by Articles 69 F and 69 G thereof, Article 31 shall be replaced by Articles 69 A, 69 B and 69 D thereof, Article 32 shall be replaced by Article 69 H thereof, Article 33 shall be replaced by Article 61 E thereof and Article 36 shall be replaced by Article 61 D thereof. The heading of the Title shall be deleted and its number shall become the number of the Title on final provisions.

52) Articles 40 to 40 B of Title VI and Articles 43 to 45 of Title VII, relating to enhanced cooperation, shall be replaced by Article 10 in accordance with point 22 above, and Title VII shall be repealed.

53) Articles 41 and 42 shall be repealed.

(...)

Public Contracts – European Commission Proposal

Brussels, 5 December 2007

EDA WELCOMES COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON EU DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND MARKET

The European Defence Agency welcomes the efforts of the European Commission to further support the development of a true European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM). The Defence Package published today is complementary to the Agency's own agenda for creating a more effective EDEM and a stronger European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).

The EDA is pleased that the Commission is taking into account the specific features of defence and security, since this cannot be treated as a fully commercial market.

'Everyone is aware that sensitive issues of national sovereignty are involved in defence procurement and that has driven much of our work in this area,' said EDA Chief Executive Alexander Weis. 'The European market for tanks does not operate in the same way as the market for washing machines.'

With regard to procurement, the Commission's initiative is complementary to the EDA 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.

The Agency believes that competition is one key tool in a larger set that includes other important initiatives such as agreements on Security of Supply and Security of Information, issues on which the EDA is currently working. Competition is not a cure-all and cooperation is in some instances more appropriate to shape the EDTIB of the future.

The Code of Conduct, to which 24 Member States now subscribe, has so far seen more than 200 contract opportunities worth some €10 billion published on the EDA's Electronic Bulletin Board.

Without the Code of Conduct, this business would not have been opened to Europe-wide competition.

The first contracts under the Code of Conduct are now in the award phase, and so far there have been eight cross-border contracts awarded, worth a total of €44 million.

PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE COORDINATION OF PROCEDURES FOR THE AWARD OF CERTAIN PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS, PUBLIC SUPPLY CONTRACTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRACTS IN THE FIELDS OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 47(2) and Article 55 and Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission⁷,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee⁸,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions⁹,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty¹⁰,

Whereas:

- (1) The gradual establishment of a European defence equipment market is essential for strengthening the defence industrial and technological base in Europe and developing the military capabilities required to implement the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).
- (2) One prerequisite for the creation of a European defence equipment market is the establishment of an appropriate legislative framework. In the field of public procurement, this involves the coordination of procedures for the award of public contracts to meet the security requirements of the Member States and the obligations arising from the Treaty.
- (3) At the same time, these rules should reflect the European Union's overall approach to security, which responds to changes in the strategic environment. The emergence of asymmetrical transnational threats has increasingly blurred the boundary between external and internal, military and non-military security.
- (4) Defence and security equipment is vital both for the security and sovereignty of the Member States and for the autonomy of the European Union. As a result, purchases of goods and services in the defence and security sectors are often of a sensitive nature.
- (5) This results in specific requirements, particularly in the fields of security of supply and security of information. These requirements relate especially to purchases of arms, munitions and war material for the armed forces (as well as services and work directly relating to these), but also to certain particularly sensitive purchases in the field of non-military security.
- (6) The award of contracts concluded in the Member States on behalf of the State, regional or local authorities and other public law entities, is subject to compliance with the principles of the Treaty and in particular the principles of the free movement of goods, the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services, and with the principles deriving therefrom, such as the principles of equal treatment, nondiscrimination, mutual recognition, proportionality and

7. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

8. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

9. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

10. OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

transparency. For public contracts above a certain value, it is advisable to draw up provisions for the Community coordination of national procedures for the award of such contracts which are based on these principles so as to ensure the effects of these and to guarantee the effective opening-up of public procurement to competition. These coordinating provisions should therefore be interpreted in accordance with both the aforementioned rules and principles and with other rules of the Treaty.

(7) Articles 30, 45, 46, 55 and 296 of the Treaty make provision for specific exceptions to the application of the principles set out in the Treaty and, consequently, to the application of law derived from these principles. It therefore follows that none of the provisions in this directive should prevent the imposition or application of any measures considered necessary to safeguard interests recognised as legitimate by these provisions of the Treaty. Nevertheless, in accordance with ECJ case-law, the possibility of recourse to such exceptions should be interpreted in such a way that their effects do not extend beyond that which is strictly necessary for the protection of the legitimate interests that these Articles of the Treaty help safeguard. This means that non-application of the Directive should be proportionate to the aims pursued and cause as little disturbance as possible to the free movement of goods and/or the provision of services.

(8) Contracts relating to arms, munitions and war material awarded by contracting authorities operating in the field of defence are excluded from the scope of the Government Procurement Agreement (hereinafter ‘the Agreement’) concluded at the World Trade Organization. With respect to the other contracts covered by this Directive, these may be exempted from the application of this agreement on the basis of Article XXIII thereof.

(9) A contract shall be deemed to be a public works contract only if its subject-matter specifically covers the execution of activities under Division 45 of the ‘Common Procurement Vocabulary’ laid down by Regulation (EC) No 2195/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 November 2002 on the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV)¹¹ (hereinafter the ‘CPV’), even if the contract covers the provision of other services necessary for the execution of such activities. Public service contracts may, in some cases, include works. However, insofar as such works are incidental to the principal subject-matter of the contract, and are only a possible consequence thereof or a complement thereto, the fact that such works are included in the contract does not justify the qualification of the contract as a public works contract.

(10) Public defence and security contracts often contain sensitive information which, for security reasons, needs to be protected from unauthorised access. In the military field, the Member States have systems for classifying this information. The picture is more varied, however, when it comes to non-military security matters. The recommendation is, therefore, to make use of a concept which takes into account the diversity of practices in the Member States and can encompass both the military and non-military fields. At any rate, public procurement in these fields should not, where appropriate, affect the obligations arising from Commission Decision 2001/844/EC of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure¹² or Council Decision 2001/264/EC adopting the Council’s security regulations¹³.

(11) The contracting authorities should be allowed to use framework agreements, which makes it necessary to provide a definition of the framework agreements and specific rules. Under these rules, when a contracting authority enters into a framework agreement in accor-

11. OJ L 340, 16.12.2002, p. 1. Regulation amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2151/2003 (OJ L 349, 17.12.2003, p. 1).

12. OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1. Decision last amended by Decision 2006/548/EC, Euratom (OJ L 215, 5.8.2006, p. 38).

13. OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC, Euratom (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).

dance with the provisions of this Directive relating, particularly, to advertising, time limits and conditions for the submission of tenders, it may enter into contracts based on this framework agreement during its term of validity either by applying the terms set forth in the framework agreement or, if not all terms have been fixed in advance, by reopening competition between the parties to the framework agreement. The reopening of competition should comply with certain rules, the aim of which is to guarantee the required flexibility and to guarantee compliance with the general principles, in particular the principle of equal treatment. For the same reasons, the term of the framework agreements should not exceed five years, except in cases duly justified by the contracting authorities.

(12) Contracting authorities may make use of electronic purchasing techniques, providing such use complies with the rules drawn up under this Directive and with the principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency.

(13) Multiplying the number of thresholds for applying the coordinating provisions complicates matters for the contracting authorities. The application thresholds for this Directive should therefore correspond to those that already have to be met by the contracting authorities in applying Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts¹⁴. To this end, the thresholds should be aligned with those of Directive 2004/18/EC when the latter are revised.

(14) For the implementation of the rules of this Directive and for monitoring purposes, the best way of defining the field of services is to sub-divide it into categories corresponding to certain codes in the CPV.

(15) In addition, provision should be made for cases where the Directive does not apply because specific rules on the awarding of contracts which derive from international agreements or which are specific to international organisations are applicable.

(16) It can be the case that armed forces from the Member States conduct military operations beyond the borders of the European Union. In such circumstances, authorisation should be given to contracting authorities deployed in the field of operations not to apply the rules of this Directive when they award contracts to local economic operators.

(17) The technical specifications drawn up by public purchasers need to allow public procurement to be opened up to competition. To this end, it must be possible to submit tenders which reflect the diversity of technical solutions. To do so, technical specifications should, on the one hand, be established on the basis of performances and functional requirements. On the other hand, where reference is made to the European standard – or, in the absence thereof, to international or national standards, including those specific to the field of defence – tenders based on equivalent arrangements must be considered by contracting authorities. This equivalence can be assessed in particular with regard to interoperability and operational efficiency requirements. To demonstrate equivalence, tenderers should be permitted to use any form of evidence. Contracting authorities must be able to provide a reason for any decision that equivalence does not exist in a given case. There are also international agreements on standardisation which aim to ensure the interoperability of the armed forces and which can have force of law in the Member States. Should one of these agreements apply, the contracting authorities can demand that tenders comply with the standards described in these agreements. The technical specifications

14. OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 114.

should be clearly indicated, so that all tenderers know what the requirements established by the contracting authority cover.

(18) The detailed technical specifications and additional information concerning contracts must, as is customary in Member States, be given in the contract documents for each contract or in an equivalent document.

(19) Defence and security equipment is often intended to be integrated into more complex structures (a system, or system of systems). In this case, certain technical specifications relating to this integration may not appear in the contract documents and may only be revealed to the successful tenderer on condition that the impact of these technical specifications on the tender is limited to explanations or clarifications which do not alter the subject-matter of the contract. In all cases, the contracting authorities provide the same information to all tenderers and ensure that they are all treated equally.

(20) Contract performance conditions are compatible with this Directive provided that they are not directly or indirectly discriminatory and are indicated in the contract notice or in the contract documents.

(21) In particular, the conditions of performance may contain requirements by the contracting authorities as regards security of information and security of supply. These requirements are particularly important given the sensitive nature of the equipment covered by this Directive and concern the whole of the supply chain.

(22) With respect to security of supply, the contracting authority's requirements as regards the organisation and location of the tenderer's supply chain include, for example, the business's internal rules between subsidiaries and the parent company on intellectual property rights.

(23) In any case, no performance conditions may pertain to requirements other than those relating to the performance of the contract itself.

(24) The laws, regulations and collective agreements, at both national and Community level, which are in force in the areas of employment conditions and safety at work, apply during performance of a public contract, providing that such rules, and their application, comply with Community law. In cross-border situations, where workers from one Member State provide services in another Member State for the purpose of performing a public contract, Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services¹⁵ lays down the minimum conditions which must be observed by the host country in respect of such posted workers. If national law contains provisions to this effect, non-compliance with those obligations may be considered to be grave misconduct or an offence concerning the professional conduct of the economic operator concerned, liable to lead to the exclusion of that economic operator from the procedure for the award of a public contract.

(25) The public contracts covered by this Directive are characterised by specific requirements in terms of complexity, security of information or security of supply. Extensive negotiation is often required to satisfy these requirements when awarding the contract. As a result, the contracting authorities may use the negotiated procedure with the publication of a contract notice, as well as the restricted procedure, for the contracts covered by this Directive.

(26) Contracting authorities which carry out particularly complex projects may, without this being due to any fault on their part, find it objectively impossible to define the means of satisfy-

15. OJ L 18, 21.1.1997, p. 1.

ing their needs or of assessing what the market can offer in the way of technical solutions and/or financial/legal solutions. This situation may arise in particular with projects requiring the integration or combination of several technological or operational capabilities or projects involving complex and structured financing, the financial and legal make-up of which cannot be defined in advance. In this case, use of the restricted procedure and the negotiated procedure with the publication of a contract notice would not be feasible, as it would not be possible to define the contract with enough precision to allow candidates to draw up their offers. It is therefore necessary to provide for a flexible procedure which guarantees competition between economic operators as well as the need for the contracting authorities to discuss all aspects of the contract with each candidate. However, this procedure must not be used in such a way as to restrict or distort competition, particularly by altering any fundamental aspects of tenders, or by imposing substantial new requirements on the successful tenderer, or by involving any tenderer other than the one selected as the most economically advantageous.

(27) Use of the negotiated procedure with the publication of a contract notice could be impossible or entirely inappropriate in certain exceptional circumstances. The contracting authorities should thus, in certain very specific cases and circumstances, be able to use the negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice.

(28) Certain circumstances should be partly the same as those provided for by Directive 2004/18/EC. In this respect, consideration should be given in particular to the fact that defence and security equipment is often technically complex. Consequently, the incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance justifying the use of the negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice in the case of supply contracts for additional deliveries should be judged in the light of this complexity and the associated requirements for interoperability and standardisation of the equipment. This is the case, for example, with the integration of new components into existing systems or the modernisation of these systems.

(29) The specific nature of the contracts subject to this Directive also demonstrates the need to provide for new circumstances which may arise in the fields covered by the Directive.

(30) The armed forces of the Member States may, for example, be called on to intervene in crisis situations or armed conflicts. At the launch, or during the course, of such an intervention, the security of the Member States and their armed forces may necessitate the award of certain contracts at a speed which is incompatible with the deadlines imposed by the award procedures normally laid down by this Directive. Such emergencies could also arise for the security forces, e.g. in the case of a terrorist attack on EU territory.

(31) Stimulating research and technological development is a key way of strengthening the EU defence technological and industrial base, and the opening-up of public procurement helps achieve this objective. The importance of research in this specific field does, however, justify maximum flexibility when awarding contracts, particularly to encourage the Member States to pool their investments in future capabilities.

(32) Sales of arms, munitions and war material between governments are also public contracts of a particular type that may be useful in improving interoperability.

(33) In view of new developments in information and communications technology, and the simplifications these can bring, electronic means should be put on a par with traditional means of communication and information exchange. As far as possible, the means and technology chosen should be compatible with the technologies used in other Member States.

(34) To ensure development of effective competition in the field of public procurement covered by this Directive, it is necessary that contract notices drawn up by the contracting authorities of Member States be advertised throughout the Community. The information contained in these notices must enable economic operators in the Community to determine whether the proposed contracts are of interest to them. For this purpose, they must be given adequate information on the subject-matter of the contract and the conditions attached thereto. Improved visibility should therefore be ensured for public notices by means of appropriate instruments, such as standard contract notice forms and the CPV, which is the reference nomenclature for public contracts.

(35) Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 on a Community framework for electronic signatures¹⁶ and Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the internal market ('Directive on electronic commerce')¹⁷ should, in the context of this Directive, apply to the transmission of information by electronic means. The public procurement procedures require a level of security and confidentiality higher than that required by these Directives. Accordingly, the devices for the electronic receipt of offers and requests to participate should comply with specific additional requirements. To this end, the use of electronic signatures, in particular advanced electronic signatures, should be encouraged as far as possible. Moreover, the existence of voluntary accreditation schemes could constitute a favourable framework for enhancing the level of certification service provision for these devices.

(36) The transmission of contract notices by electronic means leads to savings in time. As a result, it should be possible to reduce the minimum time limit for receipt of requests to participate, subject however to the condition that they are compatible with the specific mode of transmission envisaged at Community level.

(37) Verification of the suitability and the selection of candidates should be carried out in transparent conditions. For this purpose, non-discriminatory criteria should be indicated which the contracting authorities may use when selecting competitors and the means which economic operators may use to prove they have satisfied those criteria. In the same spirit of transparency, the contracting authority should be required, as soon as a contract is put out to competition, to indicate the selection criteria it will use and the level of specific competence it may or may not demand of the economic operators before admitting them to the procurement procedure.

(38) A contracting authority may limit the number of candidates in the restricted and negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice, and in the competitive dialogue. Any reduction in the number of candidates should be performed on the basis of objective criteria indicated in the contract notice. For criteria relating to the personal situation of economic operators, a general reference in the contract notice to the situations set out in Article 30 may suffice.

(39) In the competitive dialogue and negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice, in view of the flexibility which may be required and the high level of costs associated with such methods of procurement, contracting authorities should be entitled to make provision for the procedure to be conducted in successive stages in order gradually to reduce, on the basis of

16. OJ L 13, 19.1.2000, p. 12.

17. OJ L 178, 17.7.2000, p. 1.

previously indicated contract award criteria, the number of tenders which they will go on to discuss or negotiate. This reduction should, insofar as the number of appropriate solutions or candidates allows, ensure that there is genuine competition.

(40) The relevant Community rules on mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates or other evidence of formal qualifications apply when evidence of a particular qualification is required for participation in a procurement procedure.

(41) The award of public contracts to economic operators who have participated in a criminal organisation or who have been found guilty of corruption or fraud to the detriment of the financial interests of the European Communities, of money laundering, the financing of terrorism or of terrorist and terrorism-related offences should be avoided. Where appropriate, the contracting authorities should ask candidates or tenderers to supply relevant documents and, where they have doubts concerning the personal situation of a candidate or tenderer, they may seek the cooperation of the competent authorities of the Member State concerned. Such economic operators should be excluded as soon as the contracting authority has knowledge of a judgment concerning such offences rendered in accordance with national law that has the force of *res judicata*. If national law contains provisions to this effect, non-compliance with public procurement legislation on unlawful agreements, which has been the subject of a final judgment or a decision having equivalent effect, may be considered an offence concerning the professional conduct of the economic operator concerned or grave misconduct.

(42) Non-compliance with national provisions implementing Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation¹⁸ and Council Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions¹⁹, which has been the subject of a final judgment or a decision having equivalent effect, may be considered an offence concerning the professional conduct of the economic operator concerned or grave misconduct.

(43) Given the sensitive nature of the defence and security sectors, the reliability of the economic operators that win the contracts is vital. This reliability depends, in particular, on their ability to respond to the requirements imposed by the contracting authority with respect to security of supply and security of information.

(44) Contracts should be awarded on the basis of objective criteria which ensure compliance with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and equal treatment and which guarantee that tenders are assessed in a transparent and objective manner under conditions of effective competition. As a result, it is appropriate to allow the application of two award criteria only: 'the lowest price' and 'the most economically advantageous tender'.

(45) To ensure compliance with the principle of equal treatment in the award of contracts, it is appropriate to lay down an obligation – established by case-law – to ensure the necessary transparency to enable all tenderers to be reasonably informed of the criteria and arrangements which will be applied to identify the most economically advantageous tender. It is therefore the responsibility of contracting authorities to indicate the criteria for the award of the contract and the relative weighting given to each of those criteria in sufficient time for tenderers to be aware of them when preparing their tenders. Contracting authorities may derogate from indi-

18. OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 16.

19. OJ L 39, 14.2.1976, p. 40. Directive as amended by Directive 2002/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 269, 5.10.2002, p. 15).

cating the weighting of the criteria for the award in duly justified cases for which they must be able to give reasons, where the weighting cannot be established in advance, in particular on account of the complexity of the contract. In such cases, they must indicate the descending order of importance of the criteria.

(46) Where the contracting authorities choose to award a contract to the most economically advantageous tender, they shall assess the tenders in order to determine which one offers the best value for money. In order to do this, they shall determine the economic and quality criteria which, taken as a whole, must make it possible to determine the most economically advantageous tender for the contracting authority. The determination of these criteria depends on the object of the contract since they must allow the level of performance offered by each tender to be assessed in the light of the object of the contract, as defined in the technical specifications, and the value for money of each tender to be measured.

(47) Certain technical conditions, and in particular those concerning notices and statistical reports, as well as the nomenclature used and the conditions of reference to that nomenclature, need to be adopted and amended in the light of changing technical requirements. It is therefore appropriate to put in place a flexible and rapid adoption procedure for this purpose.

(48) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Directive should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission²⁰

(...)

20. OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23. Decision amended by Decision 2006/512/EC (OJ L 200, 22.7.2006, p. 11).

EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine

Brussels, 5 December 2007

The EU border assistance mission to Moldova and Ukraine was established in December 2005 in response to a joint request from Kiev and Chisinau. The aim was to enable the two countries to monitor their borders more effectively and to improve the capacity of the Moldovan police and customs services. EUBAM plays a very important role, in particular in contributing to the stabilisation of the region.

FACTSHEET

The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine includes border police and customs officials from 20 EU Member States. This Mission, headed by Major-General Ferenc BANFI of Hungary, observes the situation on the common border between Moldova and Ukraine and helps to prevent smuggling, trafficking, and customs fraud, by providing advice and training to improve the capacity of the Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs services. The Mission works very closely with the team of the EU Special Representative for Moldova Kalman MIZSEI, which includes advisors in Kiev, Chisinau and Odessa on related political issues. Major-General Banfi is also senior political advisor to the EUSR.

The Mission was established initially for two years in response to a joint letter from the presidents of Moldova and Ukraine, Vladimir VORONIN and Viktor YUSHCHENKO dating from 2 June 2005 calling for additional EU support in overall capacity building for border management, including customs, on the whole Moldova-Ukraine border. The letter specifically requested EU assistance in the creation of an 'international customs control arrangement and an effective border monitoring mechanism on the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine State border'. On 7 October 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Border Assistance Mission was signed. The official opening ceremony of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine took place on 30 November 2005 in Odessa in the presence of High Representative Javier SOLANA, Commissioner Benita FERRERO-WALDNER as well as the Foreign Ministers of Ukraine and Moldova, Borys TARASYUK and Andrei STRATAN.

The Mission was at first funded from the Rapid Reaction Mechanism, and thereafter from TACIS. The budget for the Mission up to November 2007 was EUR 20.2 million. In addition to the European Community funding of the core EUBAM budget within the TACIS programme, a number of EU Member States are also providing direct contributions by funding secondments of border professionals from their national services to the Mission.

The Mission is involved in an EC-financed EUR 9.9 million project called BOMMOLUK (Improvement of Border Controls at the Moldova-Ukraine border). The first part of the project has focused on equipment procurement, risk analysis development and training for officers at jointly controlled border crossing points.

The mandate of the Mission, which began in November 2005, has been extended up to the end of November 2009. Each of the next two years will be funded by EUR 10 million per annum.

EUBAM has its headquarters in Odessa, and six field offices on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border and in Odessa Port. It also has four advisers on risk analysis, deployed in Chisinau and Kyiv.

Personnel currently amounts to over 200. There are 129 experts from 20 EU Member States, representatives of several Commonwealth of Independent States countries in the United

Nations Development Programme contingent, and local staff from Moldova and Ukraine. Most of the experts are professionals from EU Member States' border services.

The Mission provides on-the-job training and advice to Moldovan and Ukrainian officials, reinforcing their capacity to carry out effective border and customs controls and border surveillance. The aim is to build confidence and strengthen cross-border co-operation and the exchange of information between the two countries and to help them to progress towards European standards of border management.

The Mission operates principally on the Moldova-Ukraine State border, but also in other relevant inland locations such as customs houses.

Border co-operation and efforts to seek a solution to the frozen conflict in Transnistria featured in the European Neighbourhood Action Plans agreed with both Moldova and Ukraine in February 2005, and the launch of the Mission shows the role the European Neighbourhood Policy is playing in promoting stability and addressing frozen conflicts. The work of the Mission has helped to legitimise trade activities of the companies in the Transnistrian region of Moldova, by providing neutral advice and support for measures introduced by the Moldovan authorities to enable these companies to obtain Moldovan customs stamps and access to preferential trade schemes.

Among the results of the Mission's activities during two years are enhanced professional capacity of counterparts services, an improved risk analysis system, better analytical overview on border security, stronger interagency & cross border co-operation, implementation of the Moldova and Ukraine Joint Declaration and efforts to counter corruption.

The efforts of the Mission jointly with its partner services, through various forms of training and on the job advice, have resulted in a much better assessment of the security situation along the border, better developed capacity to deal with criminal activities, such as using risk analysis, developing closer cooperation between the two services and the two countries, for example in information exchange, as well as cooperation with border management services in the European Union, including in neighbouring Member States.

EU BAM Rafah – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 6 December 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/807/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 the 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 18 June 2007, the Council approved Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management. These Guidelines notably provide that a Civilian Operation Commander will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations, under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP. These Guidelines further provide that the Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability established within the Council Secretariat will, for each civilian crisis management operation, be the Civilian Operation Commander.
- (3) The above mentioned Command and Control Structure should be without prejudice to the contractual responsibilities of the Head of Mission towards the Commission for implementing the budget of the Mission.
- (4) The Watch-Keeping Capability established within the Council Secretariat should be activated for the Mission.
- (5) Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. The following Article shall be inserted:

‘Article 4a

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for EU BAM Rafah.
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-

(1) OJ L 327, 14.12.2005, p. 28.

General/High Representative, shall exercise command and control of EU BAM Rafah 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 the 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.

6. The Civilian Operation Commander and the EU Special Representative shall consult each other as required.'

2. Article 5(2) to (5) shall be replaced by the following:

'2. The Head of Mission shall assume responsibility and exercise command and control of the mission at theatre level.

3. 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.

4. The Head of Mission shall issue instructions to all mission staff, for the effective conduct of EU BAM Rafah in theatre, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, following the instructions at the strategic level of the Civilian Operation Commander.

5. 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.

6. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for disciplinary control over the staff. For seconded staff, disciplinary action shall be exercised by the national authorities or EU institution concerned.

7. The Head of Mission shall represent EU BAM Rafah in the operations area and shall ensure appropriate visibility of the Mission.

8. The Head of Mission shall coordinate, as appropriate, with other EU actors on the ground. The Head of Mission shall, without prejudice to the chain of command, receive local political guidance from the EU Special Representative.'

3. Article 7(5) shall be replaced by the following:

'5. 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 (*).

(*) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).'

4. Article 9 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 9

Chain of Command

1. EU BAM Rafah 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 EU BAM Rafah.
3. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative, is the commander of EU BAM Rafah 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 Secretary-General/High Representative.
5. The Head of Mission shall exercise command and control of EU BAM Rafah at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.’.

5. Article 10 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 10

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. This authorisation shall include the powers to appoint a Head of Mission, upon a proposal from the Secretary-General/High Representative, and to amend the OPLAN. It shall also include powers to take subsequent 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.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. 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.’.

6. Article 12 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 12

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 EU BAM Rafah in accordance with Articles 4a and 9, in coordination with the Security Office of the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC 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 and its supporting documents.
3. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Chief Security Officer (CSO), who will report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the GSC Security Office.

4. EU BAM Rafah staff shall undergo mandatory security training before their entry into function, in accordance with the OPLAN. They shall also receive regular in-theatre refresher training organised by the CSO.’

7. The following Article shall be inserted:

‘Article 15a

Watch-Keeping

The Watch-Keeping Capability shall be activated for EU BAM Rafah.’

8. The following paragraph shall be added to Article 18:

‘The Decisions of the PSC pursuant to Article 10(1), regarding the appointment of the Head of Mission, shall also be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.’

Article 2

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

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, 6 December 2007.

For the Council

The President

A. Costa

EUPOL COPPS – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 6 December 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/806/CFSP AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2005/797/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION FOR THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

- (1) On 14 November 2005, the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/797/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories⁽¹⁾ for a period of three years. The operational phase of EUPOL COPPS started on 1 January 2006.
- (2) On 18 June 2007, the Council approved Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management; these Guidelines notably provide that a Civilian Operation Commander will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations, under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP; these Guidelines further provide that the Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability established within the Council Secretariat will, for each civilian crisis management operation, be the Civilian Operation Commander.
- (3) The above mentioned Command and Control Structure is without prejudice to the contractual responsibilities of the Head of Mission towards the Commission for implementing the budget of the Mission.
- (4) The Watch-Keeping Capability established within the Council Secretariat should be activated for the Mission.
- (5) Joint Action 2005/797/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2005/797/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. the following Article shall be inserted:

‘Article 5a

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for EUPOL COPPS.
2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall exercise command and control of EUPOL COPPS at the strategic level.

(1) OJ L 300, 17.11.2005, p. 65.

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 the 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.
6. The Civilian Operation Commander and the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) shall consult each other as required.;

2. Article 6 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 6

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, for the effective conduct of EUPOL COPPS in theatre, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, following the instructions at the 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 authorities or EU institution concerned.
6. The Head of Mission shall represent EUPOL COPPS in the operations area and shall ensure appropriate visibility of the Mission.
7. The Head of Mission shall coordinate, as appropriate, with other EU actors on the ground. The Head of Mission shall, without prejudice to the chain of command, receive local political guidance from the EUSR.;

3. Article 8(5) shall be replaced by the following:

- '5. 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 (*).'

(*) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).'

4. Article 10 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 10

Chain of Command

1. EUPOL COPPS 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 EUPOL COPPS.
3. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, shall be the commander of EUPOL COPPS 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 EUPOL COPPS at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.’;

5. Article 11 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 11

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. This authorisation shall include the powers to appoint a Head of Mission, upon proposal of the SG/HR, and to amend the OPLAN. It shall also include powers to take subsequent 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.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. 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.’;

6. Article 13 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 13

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 EUPOL COPPS in accordance with Articles 5a and 10, 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 and its supporting documents.
3. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Mission Security Officer (MSO), who will report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the Council Security Office.
4. EUPOL COPPS staff shall undergo mandatory security training before their entry into function, in accordance with the OPLAN. They shall also receive regular in-theatre refresher training organised by the MSO.’;

7. the following Article shall be inserted:

Article 16a

Watch-Keeping

The Watch-Keeping Capability shall be activated for EUPOL COPPS.;

8. the following paragraph shall be added to Article 18:

‘The Decisions of the PSC pursuant to Article 11(1), regarding the appointment of the Head of Mission, shall also be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.’

Article 2

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

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, 6 December 2007

For the Council

The President

A. Costa

EUSR African Union – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 6 December 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2007/805/CFSP APPOINTING A EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AFRICAN UNION

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 14, 18(5) and 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The African Union (AU) has over the past years become a strategic continental actor and a key international partner of the European Union (EU).
- (2) The EU has on numerous occasions recognised the important role and achievements of the AU, including in the EU Strategy ‘EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership’ (hereinafter referred to as the EU Africa Strategy) adopted at the European Council on 15 and 16 December 2005.
- (3) On 14 and 15 December 2006, the European Council committed itself to strengthening the EU’s strategic partnership with Africa and, as one concrete measure in the framework of relevant priority actions for 2007, to enhancing the EU presence with the AU in Addis Ababa.
- (4) The appointment of a European Union Special Representative (EUSR) to the AU, based permanently in Addis Ababa, has been identified as a suitable measure to ensure enhanced EU presence with the AU.
- (5) The SG/HR has recommended that Mr Koen Vervaeke be appointed as the EUSR to the AU.
- (6) Within six months from the entry into force of this Joint Action, the long-term structures of the EUSR office will be further elaborated and consolidated, on the basis of a report prepared by the Presidency in close cooperation with the SG/HR, the EUSR and the Commission.
- (7) The EUSR is to implement his mandate in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could harm the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as set out in Article 11 of the Treaty,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Appointment

Mr Koen Vervaeke is hereby appointed EUSR to the AU for the period from 6 December 2007 to 31 December 2008. The EUSR shall be permanently based in Addis Ababa.

Article 2

Policy objectives

The mandate of the EUSR shall be based on the EU’s comprehensive policy objectives in support of African efforts to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future as set out in the EU Africa Strategy. These objectives include:

- (a) enhancing the EU's political dialogue and broader relationship with the AU; 8.12.2007 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 323/45
- (b) strengthening the EU-AU partnership in all areas outlined in the EU Africa Strategy, contributing to the development and implementation of the EU Africa Strategy in partnership with the AU, respecting the principle of African ownership and working more closely with African representatives in multilateral fora in coordination with multilateral partners;
- (c) working with, and providing support to the AU by supporting institutional development and strengthening the relationship between EU and AU Institutions, including through development assistance, to promote:
 - ▶ peace and security: predict, prevent, manage, mediate and resolve conflict, support efforts to promote peace and stability, support post-conflict reconstruction,
 - ▶ human rights and governance: promote and protect human rights; promote fundamental freedoms and respect for the rule of law; support, through political dialogue and financial and technical assistance, African efforts to monitor and improve governance; support growth of participatory democracy and accountability; support the fight against corruption and organized crime and further promote efforts to address the issue of children and armed conflict in all its aspects,
 - ▶ sustainable growth, regional integration and trade: support efforts towards interconnectivity and facilitate people's access to water and sanitation, energy and information technology; promote a stable, efficient and harmonised legal business framework; assist to integrate Africa into the world trade system, assist African countries to comply with EU rules and standards; support Africa in countering the effects of climate change,
 - ▶ investment in people: support efforts in the fields of gender, health, food security and education, promote exchange programmes, networks of universities and centres of excellence, address the root causes of migration.

Furthermore, the EU and Africa intend to establish a Joint Strategy which shall further develop and consolidate their strategic partnership. The AU shall be the key actor in implementing the Joint Strategy.

Article 3

Mandate

In order to achieve the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)/European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) aspects of the objectives referred to in Article 2, the mandate of the EUSR shall be to:

- (a) strengthen the overall EU influence in, and coordination of, the Addis Ababa-based dialogue with the AU and its Commission, on the whole range of CFSP/ESDP issues covered by the EU-AU relationship;
- (b) ensure an appropriate level of political representation, reflecting the importance of the EU as a political, financial and institutional partner of the AU, and the stepchange in that partnership necessitated by the growing political profile of the AU on the world stage;
- (c) represent, should the Council so decide, EU positions and policies, when the AU plays a major role in a crisis situation for which no EUSR has been appointed;
- (d) help achieve better coherence, consistency and coordination of EU policies and actions towards the AU, and contribute to enhance coordination of the broader partner group and its relation with the AU;

- (e) follow closely, and report on, all relevant developments at AU level;
- (f) maintain close contact with the AU Commission, other AU organs, missions of African Sub-regional organisations to the AU and the missions of the AU Member States to the AU;
- (g) facilitate the relations/cooperation between the AU and African Subregional organisations, especially in those areas where the EU is providing support;
- (h) offer advice and provide support to the AU upon request in the areas outlined in the EU Africa Strategy;
- (i) offer advice and provide support to the building up of the AU's crisis management capabilities;
- (j) on the basis of a clear division of tasks, coordinate with, and support, the actions of EUSRs with mandates in AU Member States/Regions; and
- (k) maintain close contacts and promote coordination with key international partners of the AU present in Addis Ababa, especially the United Nations, but also with non-state actors on the whole range of the CFSP/ESDP issues covered by the EU-AU relationship.

Article 4

Implementation of the mandate

1. The EUSR shall be responsible for the implementation of the mandate acting under the authority and operational direction of the Secretary General/High Representative (SG/HR).
2. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) shall maintain a privileged link with the EUSR and shall be the primary point of contact with the Council. The PSC shall provide the EUSR with strategic guidance and political direction within the framework of the mandate.

Article 5

Financing

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the mandate of the EUSR in the period from 6 December 2007 to 31 May 2008 shall be EUR 1 200 000.
2. The expenditure financed by the amount stipulated in paragraph 1 shall be eligible as from 6 December 2007. The expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the European Communities with the exception that any prefinancing shall not remain the property of the Community.
3. The management of the expenditure shall be subject to a contract between the EUSR and the Commission. The EUSR shall be accountable to the Commission for all expenditure.
4. Expenditure related to the mandate of the EUSR in the period from 1 June 2008 to 31 December 2008 shall be covered through a separate Council act providing for the corresponding financial reference amount.

Article 6

Constitution and composition of the team

1. Within the limits of his mandate and the corresponding financial means made available, the EUSR shall be responsible for constituting his team in consultation with the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, and in full association with the Commission. The team shall include the expertise on specific policy issues as required by the mandate. The EUSR shall keep the SG/HR, the Presidency and the Commission informed of the composition of his team.
2. Member States and institutions of the European Union may propose the secondment of staff to work with the EUSR. The salary of personnel who are seconded by a Member State or an

institution of the EU to the EUSR shall be covered by the Member State or the institution of the EU concerned respectively. Experts seconded by Member States to the General Secretariat of the Council may also be posted to the EUSR. International contracted staff shall have the nationality of an EU Member State.

3. All seconded personnel shall remain under the administrative authority of the sending Member State or EU institution and shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the mandate of the EUSR.

4. After completion of the initial phase referred to in Article 14, the EUSR's staff will work in principle in a policy section, a peace and security section, and an administrative section.

Article 7

Privileges and immunities of the EUSR and his staff

The privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the completion and smooth functioning of the mission of the EUSR and the members of his staff shall be agreed with the host party/parties as appropriate. Member States and the Commission shall grant all necessary support to such effect.

Article 8

Security of EU classified information

The EUSR and the members of his team shall respect security principles and minimum standards established by Council Decision 2001/264/EC of 19 March 2001 adopting the Council's security regulations⁽¹⁾, in particular when managing EU classified information.

Article 9

Access to information and logistical support

1. Member States, the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council shall ensure that the EUSR is given access to any relevant information.

2. The Presidency, the Commission and/or Member States, as appropriate, shall provide logistical support in the region.

Article 10

Security

In accordance with the EU's policy on the security of personnel deployed outside the EU in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty, the EUSR shall take all reasonably practicable measures, in conformity with his mandate and the security situation in his geographical area of responsibility, for the security of all personnel under his direct authority, notably by:

- (a) establishing a mission-specific security plan based on guidance from the General Secretariat of the Council, including mission-specific physical, organisational and procedural security measures, governing management of the secure movement of personnel to, and within, the mission area, the management of security incidents and a mission contingency and evacuation plan;
- (b) ensuring that all personnel deployed outside the EU are covered by high risk insurance as required by the conditions in the mission area;

(1) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).

- (c) ensuring that all members of his team to be deployed outside the EU, including locally contracted personnel, have received appropriate security training before or upon arriving in the mission area, based on the risk ratings assigned to the mission area by the General Secretariat of the Council;
- (d) ensuring that all agreed recommendations made following regular security assessments are implemented and providing the SG/HR, the Council and the Commission with written reports on their implementation and on other security issues within the framework of the mid-term and mandate implementation reports.

Article 11

Reporting

The EUSR shall regularly provide the SG/HR and the PSC with oral and written reports. The EUSR shall also report as necessary to working groups. Regular written reports shall be circulated through the COREU network. Upon recommendation of the SG/HR or the PSC, the EUSR may provide General Affairs and External Relations Council with reports.

Article 12

Coordination

The EUSR shall promote overall EU political coordination. He shall help to ensure that all EU instruments in the field are engaged coherently to attain the EU's policy objectives. The activities of the EUSR shall be coordinated with those of the Presidency and the Commission, as well as those of other EUSRs active in the region as appropriate. The EUSR shall provide Member States' missions and Commission's delegations with regular briefings. In the field, close liaison shall be maintained with the Presidency, Commission and Member States' Heads of Mission who shall make best efforts to assist the EUSR in the implementation of the mandate. The EUSR shall also liaise with other international and regional actors in the field.

Article 13

Review

The implementation of this Joint Action and its consistency with other contributions from the EU to the region shall be kept under regular review. The EUSR shall present the SG/HR, the Council and the Commission with a comprehensive mandate implementation report before the end of September 2008. This report shall form a basis for evaluation of the mandate in the relevant working groups and by the PSC. The SG/HR shall make appropriate recommendations to the PSC in this context.

Article 14

Initial set-up and further build-up

1. By mid-April 2008 the Presidency, in close cooperation with the SG/HR, the EUSR and the Commission, shall report to the Council on the set-up of the office over the initial period of the mandate as well as on its further build-up and structuring until the end of the mandate period as specified in Article 1. This report shall in particular address the following matters:

- ▶ the long-term structures and procedures,
- ▶ the system of reporting,

- achieving equivalent conditions for staff performing similar functions, at all levels. The report shall be examined by the Council, which shall decide on the appropriate follow up.
2. Before the end of October 2008, the Presidency, in close cooperation with the SG/HR, the EUSR and the Commission, shall provide the Council with a comprehensive report on the future of the office and its organisation.

Article 15

Entry into force

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

Article 16

Publication

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

Done at Brussels, 6 December 2007.

For the Council

The President

A. Costa

EU-Africa Summit

Lisbon, 9 December 2007

At the EU-Africa Summit held on 8-9 December 2007 in Lisbon, the 53 African and 27 European countries gathered at the event adopted three documents: a strategic partnership, an action plan for 2008-2010 and a final declaration. Javier Solana made the statement below in response to the intervention by Mr Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe.

INTERVENTION BY JAVIER SOLANA

‘Prime Minister Socrates, President Kufuor, President Konaré, Your Excellencies,

This summit is about the way Africa and Europe are going to address, as equal partners, the challenges that we face together. Our plenary yesterday dealt with some of these most pressing issues.

This summit is about substance. We have worked very hard on a joint strategy. We are adopting a plan of action for the future. We expect nothing less than its implementation before our next summit.

Concerning Zimbabwe, with due respect to the summit, I would like, on behalf of the European Union, to make some comments:

The EU is concerned by the degradation of the economic, humanitarian and political situation in Zimbabwe. The degradation is the result of a crisis of governance. The first to suffer are the people, the people of Zimbabwe. Many are leaving the country, with consequences for the whole region. At a time when Southern Africa is doing well, Zimbabwe is going down. What a paradox when we consider the potential of Zimbabwe, and the memory of the great Zimbabwe and of the great Monomotapa civilization.

The EU and Zimbabwe have always enjoyed good relations. But things changed in 2002, when fundamental rights started to come under threat. The EU felt that Zimbabwe was in breach of the Cotonou Agreement. Some targeted measures were taken.

But let me be very clear here: there are no EU economic sanctions against Zimbabwe. The EU and its Member States are today, by far, the biggest contributors to Zimbabwe. And the EU and Zimbabwe never stopped trading. We must think about the future.

The EU stands ready to normalize its relations with Zimbabwe as soon as some benchmarks have been met. At this point, I would like to pay tribute to the on-going Southern African Development Community (SADC) mediation. I know it is a collective effort by the region, with full support of the African Union.

Let me also thank President Mbeki for his personal involvement. We hope that the SADC efforts will lead to a political agreement.

The EU is a friend of Zimbabwe, and we will contribute to its stabilization and recovery as soon as benchmarks for progress have been met. But, again, the summit of today is about how we, together, will work in the future.

This is how we must, and how we will, remember Lisbon. Once again, I would like to thank Prime Minister Socrates for the wonderful organization of these two days.’

LISBON DECLARATION

The Lisbon Summit, bringing together the European Union and Africa, has offered us a unique opportunity jointly to address the common contemporary challenges for our continents, in the year that we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European integration and the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the independence of Africa.

We have come together in awareness of the lessons and experiences of the past, but also in the certainty that our common future requires an audacious approach, one that allows us to face with confidence the demands of our globalizing world.

Since our first gathering in 2000 in Cairo, much has changed. In Africa we have witnessed the creation of the African Union, which offers a new continental framework for addressing African issues and has become a recognised voice for the continent, and of its economic instrument, NEPAD. In Europe, the EU has grown in membership and scope, deepening its process of integration and acquiring new responsibilities in the world. On a global scale, we have today an increased understanding of our vital interdependence and are determined to work together in the global arena on the key political challenges of our time, such as energy and climate change, migration or gender issues.

In recognition of our ambitions, and of all that we share today and have shared in the past, we are resolved to build a new strategic political partnership for the future, overcoming the traditional donor-recipient relationship and building on common values and goals in our pursuit of peace and stability, democracy and rule of law, progress and development.

We will develop this partnership of equals, based on the effective engagement of our societies, in order to achieve significant results in our fundamental commitments, namely: the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals; the establishment of a robust peace and security architecture in Africa; the strengthening of investment, growth and prosperity through regional integration and closer economic ties; the promotion of good governance and human rights; and the creation of opportunities for shaping global governance in an open and multi-lateral framework.

We are determined to give this new strategic partnership the necessary means and instruments that will enable it to fulfil the Joint Strategy and the Action Plan that we have adopted today, and to do so we have created a comprehensive and effective follow-up mechanism that can deliver on these goals and show us the results on the occasion of the Third Summit that shall be held in 2010.

We believe that this Summit will be remembered as a moment of recognition of maturity and transformation in our continent to continent dialogue, opening new paths and opportunities for collective action for our common future.

THE AFRICA-EU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – A JOINT AFRICA-EU STRATEGY

I. CONTEXT, SHARED VISION AND PRINCIPLES

1. Context

1. Africa and Europe are bound together by history, culture, geography, a common future, as well as by a community of values: the respect for human rights, freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, the rule of law and democracy as enshrined in the relevant international agreements and in the constitutive texts of our respective Unions.

2. Since the historic first Africa-EU Summit in Cairo in 2000, where our partnership was strengthened through the institutionalisation of our dialogue, considerable change has taken place on both continents. Democratisation and reform processes have been launched and are being deepened in both Africa and Europe and efforts have continued on both continents to address conflict and crisis situations. At the same time, integration processes on both continents have accelerated – on the one hand, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has been transformed into the African Union (AU) with its socio-economic programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); on the other hand, the European Union (EU) has nearly doubled in size and is in the process of deepening the Union. The world has also changed: new international and global challenges have emerged, globalisation has accelerated and the world has become increasingly interdependent.

3. In response to these changes, cooperation between Africa and the EU has rapidly developed and diversified. Both sides have developed political strategies and policy documents to guide their cooperation, including the AU Constitutive Act and Strategic Framework 2004-2007 and the EU Africa Strategy of 2005. However, it is now time for these two neighbours, with their rich and complex history, to forge a new and stronger partnership that builds on their new identities and renewed institutions, capitalises on the lessons of the past and provides a solid framework for long-term, systematic and well integrated cooperation. There is now a need for a new phase in the Africa-EU relationship, a new strategic partnership and a Joint Africa-EU Strategy as a political vision and roadmap for the future cooperation between the two continents in existing and new areas and arenas.

2. Shared Vision

4. The purpose of this Joint Strategy is to take the Africa-EU relationship to a new, strategic level with a strengthened political partnership and enhanced cooperation at all levels. The partnership will be based on a Euro-African consensus on values, common interests and common strategic objectives. This partnership should strive to bridge the development divide between Africa and Europe through the strengthening of economic cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development in both continents, living side by side in peace, security, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity.

5. This Joint Strategy, which will provide an overarching long-term framework for Africa-EU relations, will be implemented through successive short-term Action Plans and enhanced political dialogue at all levels, resulting in concrete and measurable outcomes in all areas of the partnership.

3. Principles

6. This partnership and its further development will be guided by the fundamental principles of the unity of Africa, the interdependence between Africa and Europe, ownership and joint responsibility, and respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as the right to development. In the light of this new partnership, both sides also commit themselves to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of existing agreements, policies and instruments.

7. The partnership will furthermore be governed by strengthened political dialogue, co-management and co-responsibility in our bilateral cooperation and towards global issues, burden-sharing and mutual accountability, solidarity and mutual confidence, equality and justice, common and human security, respect for international law and agreements, gender equality and non-discrimination and, not least, a long-term approach.

II. OBJECTIVES

8. The four main objectives of this long-term strategic partnership are:

- i. To reinforce and elevate **the Africa-EU political partnership** to address issues of common concern. This includes strengthening of institutional ties and addressing common challenges, in particular peace and security, migration and development, and a clean environment. To this end, both sides will treat Africa as one and upgrade the Africa-EU political dialogue to enable a strong and sustainable continent-to-continent partnership, with the AU and the EU at the centre.
- ii. To strengthen and promote peace, security, democratic governance and human rights, fundamental freedoms, gender equality, sustainable economic development, including industrialisation, and regional and continental integration in Africa, and to ensure that all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are met in all African countries by the year of 2015.
- iii. To jointly promote and sustain a system of effective multilateralism, with strong, representative and legitimate institutions, and the reform of the United Nations (UN) system and of other key international institutions, and to address global challenges and common concerns such as human rights, including children's rights and gender equality, fair trade, migration, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other pandemics, climate change, energy security and sustainability, terrorism, the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the illicit trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, and knowledge-based society issues such as ICT, science, technology and innovation.
- vi. To facilitate and promote a broad-based and wide-ranging people-centred partnership, Africa and the EU will empower non-state actors¹ and create conditions to enable them to play an active role in development, democracy building, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction processes.

Both sides will also promote holistic approaches to development processes, and make this Joint Strategy a permanent platform for information, participation and mobilisation of a broad spectrum of civil society actors in the EU, Africa and beyond. Ongoing dia-

1. In the context of this Joint Strategy, the term non-state actors is understood as comprising: i) private sector, ii) economic and social partners including trade union organizations and iii) civil society in all its forms according to national characteristics.

logue with civil society, the private sector and local stakeholders on issues covered by this Joint Strategy will be a key component to ensure its implementation.

III. NEW APPROACHES

9. In order to meet these fundamental objectives, Africa and the EU will need to jointly address a number of key political challenges that are essential for the success of the new partnership, including:

- (a) To move away from a traditional relationship and forge a real partnership characterised by equality and the pursuit of common objectives.
- (b) To build on positive experiences and lessons learned from our past relationship where successful mechanisms and instruments have been applied in specific policy areas and learn from shortcomings in other areas.
- (c) To promote more accurate images of each other, in place of those that are dominated by inherited negative stereotypes and that ignore the overwhelmingly positive developments on the two continents.
- (d) To encourage mutual understanding between the peoples and cultures of the two continents and promote better and more systematic use of our shared cultural and social heritage and our cultural diversity, as well as the economic wealth and opportunities that exist in Europe and Africa.
- (e) To recognise and fully support Africa's efforts and leadership to create conducive conditions for sustainable social and economic development and the effective implementation of partner-supported development programmes and to, in this context, underline the importance of strong African political commitment and responsibility in support of the objectives and priorities of the partnership.
- (f) To work together towards gradually adapting relevant policies and legal and financial frameworks, as well as relevant cooperation instruments and mechanisms, to the needs and objectives of the partnership, and to set up a framework that better addresses each others' concerns.
- (g) To ensure that bilateral relations, dialogue and cooperation between one or more European and African countries contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in this Joint Strategy.
- (h) To integrate in our agenda common responses to global challenges and strengthen our dialogue and cooperation in the multilateral context.
- (i) To encourage the full integration of members of migrant communities/diasporas in their countries of residence, while at the same time promoting and facilitating links with their countries of origin, with a view to providing concrete contributions to the development process.
- (j) To bear in mind that we can only achieve our objectives if this strategic partnership is owned by all stakeholders, including civil society actors and local authorities, and if they are actively contributing to its implementation.

IV. STRATEGIES

1. Strategic Framework

10. The four main objectives of this long-term strategic partnership set the comprehensive framework within which specific strategies will have to be put in place in the following areas: (a) peace and security, (b) governance and human rights, (c) trade and regional integration and (d) key development issues.

11. In the implementation of this new partnership, the principle of policy coherence for development will be applied by both African and EU partners by identifying and promoting interactions and positive complementarities between sectoral policies and strategies, while ensuring that measures taken in one policy area do not undermine results in other areas.

2. Strategic Priorities

12. In order to meet our objectives, Africa and the EU will need to take concrete action and to make significant progress in the following strategic inter-related priority areas:

a) Peace and Security: Promoting a Safer World

13. Due to their history and experience, Africa and Europe understand the importance of peace and security as preconditions for political, economic and social development. On this basis, the two continents have laid the foundation for successful cooperation based on the need to promote holistic approaches to security, encompassing conflict prevention and long-term peace-building, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction, linked to governance and sustainable development, with a view to addressing the root causes of conflicts.

14. However, there is today a clear determination by both Africa and the EU to bring this partnership to a new and strategic level, not only to foster peace and security in both continents, but also to address issues of common concern in the global arena.

Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa and Europe

15. At the core of the partnership between Africa and the EU is the need for a strengthened dialogue and institutional cooperation that not only addresses issues of peace and stability in Africa, but also challenges that Europe is facing. The two sides therefore undertake to share information, perspectives and lessons learned, as well as to consult on issues of common concern. Not only will this enhance the ability of both continents to respond timely and appropriately to peace and security threats, but it will also facilitate the coordination of efforts in relevant international fora, in particular the United Nations Security Council.

16. Under the leadership of the AU, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is taking shape. African peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building mechanisms are being strengthened at the continental, regional and national levels. Continentally or regionally sponsored peace agreements are the norm on the continent today, and most African countries now enjoy peace and stability. The EU has been a key partner for African countries and organisations to help create conditions for lasting peace and stability.

17. In view of their expertise, financial and human resources and experience, the EU and its Member States are well placed to provide continued and increased support for the AU in its

efforts to – in cooperation with the relevant African regional organisations – operationalise the APSA, including through long-term capacity building for the various structures provided therein, including the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, and the African Standby Force. The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) will play a key coordinating role in this process. This support will, moreover, aim at facilitating the implementation of other relevant AU instruments such as the Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, the Declaration on the Border Program and relevant instruments on disarmament issues. In this context, efforts will be made to ensure coherence with wider international efforts.

18. EU support to Africa has been and continues to be guided by the principle of African ownership. At the same time, valuable guidance for the cooperation will, as appropriate, be drawn from the EU Concept for Strengthening African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts and relevant parts of the EU Joint Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform and the EU Concept on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, and from lessons learned from the implementation of the African Peace Facility (APF), and from wider international experience. EU support will be provided through a number of different instruments, in particular the capacity building component of the APF, EU crisis management instruments as well as other EU programmes, such as Euro-RECAMP, and through bilateral Member States' support.

19. Building capacity should go hand in hand with contributing to adequate, coherent and sustainable financing of the activities undertaken by the AU and the Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, both with respect to civilian crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

20. Sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for African-led peace support operations is another major challenge. The APF has made a substantial contribution and is a good example of how partner support can complement and reinforce African funding for African-led peace support operations, including from the AU Peace Fund. However, experience over the past years has clearly shown that additional financial support is urgently needed, together with sound and accountable management systems. The EU is committed to taking steps towards establishing a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism, building on the experience of the APF and EU Member States' bilateral contributions, as well as on the determination of Africa to raise additional resources from within the continent.

21. At the same time, the EU will back Africa's efforts to widen the funding base and mobilise additional resources from G8 and other international partners. Africa and the EU will also work together for the establishment, within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, of a UN mechanism to provide predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for peace keeping operations undertaken by the AU, or under its authority, and with the consent of the UN Security Council.

22. Africa and the EU together commit themselves to support and promote the role of civil society and non-state actors in underpinning a comprehensive approach, emphasising the importance of conflict sensitivity. The two sides also commit themselves to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 on Women in Peace and Security and 1612 on Children in Armed Conflicts.

Common and Global Peace and Security Challenges

23. While today's global environment has opened up new opportunities to enhance international peace and security, it has also come with new security challenges, which in a world of increasing interdependence and close links between the internal and external aspects of security, only can be addressed through concerted international action, including in a UN context. Issues relating to transnational organised crime, international terrorism, mercenary activities, and human and drugs trafficking, as well as the illicit trade in natural resources, which are a major factor in triggering and spreading conflicts and undermining state structures, are of particular concern.

24. It is also recognised that the illicit proliferation, accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition, explosive remnants of war and the continued use of anti-personnel landmines, are all major common concerns, as is the issue of the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Africa and the EU will work together on all these issues, and seek to promote, as appropriate, the adoption of multilateral, regional and national instruments, and support the implementation of commitments made, including in the context of UN Security Council Resolutions. This cooperation, which will include matters relating to counter-terrorism, will take place through the exchange of information, law enforcement and institutional capacity building and judicial cooperation.

25. Furthermore, over the past years a number of new global, and human security challenges have emerged, relating to issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, water management, toxic waste deposits and pandemics. There is a need for Africa and the EU to deepen their knowledge of the security challenges involved and jointly identify responses that could be formulated towards, and together with, the larger international community.

26. Looking beyond Africa and the EU, the two sides will also coordinate their actions and bring their influence to bear in the search for lasting solutions to crises and conflicts in other parts of the world that undermine international peace and security, in particular in the Middle East region.

b) Governance and Human Rights: Upholding our Values and Principles

Common and Global Governance and Human Rights Challenges

27. The promotion of democratic governance and human rights constitutes a central feature of the Africa-EU dialogue and partnership. The two continents will join efforts towards the enhancement of the effectiveness of the multilateral system and the promotion of the values of democracy, rule of law and human rights. In this regard, the Africa-EU strategic partnership will facilitate an open, intensive and comprehensive dialogue on all aspects and concepts of governance, including human rights, childrens' rights, gender equality, democratic principles, the rule of law, local governance, the management of natural resources, the transparent and accountable management of public funds, institutional development and reform, human security, security sector reform, the fight against corruption, corporate social responsibility, and institution building and development. This dialogue should help both parties to define the issues at stake, agree on common positions on issues of common concern and jointly undertake specific initiatives and actions.

28. In the context of situations of conflict, crisis, instability, severe democratic deficit, and/or institutional weakness, and on the basis of discussions in various international fora, Africa and the EU will also hold a dialogue on the concept of 'situations of fragility' aimed at reaching a common understanding and agreeing on steps that could be taken.

29. With regard to human rights, Africa and the EU will work together to protect and promote the human rights of all people in Africa and Europe, including through enhanced dialogue between relevant institutions from both continents, such as the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and African and European national human rights institutions.

30. Similarly, Africa and the EU will also work together on a global level and international fora, including in the UN Human Rights Council, for the promotion and protection of human rights and international humanitarian law and for the effective implementation of international and regional human rights instruments. Both sides also commit themselves to fight impunity in all its forms. The most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, especially crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, should not go unpunished and their prosecution should be ensured by measures at both domestic and international level. In this context, the partners agree that the establishment and the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court constitute an important development for peace and international justice.

31. Africa and the EU stress the importance of having a better knowledge of African cultural goods and call for the exchange of information between EU and African countries on existing African cultural goods in the EU and Africa. Africa and the EU will continue to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trade in cultural goods, and facilitate and support the return of illegally acquired cultural goods to their countries of origin, as set out in the relevant UNESCO and UNIDROIT conventions and other commonly agreed legal instruments. Africa and the EU will also cooperate through the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, by raising public awareness and by providing capacity building in, and technical assistance to, African countries.

Cooperation between Africa and the EU on Democratic Governance

32. The AU is putting into place a new pan-African governance architecture and Africa is developing its public and private institutional capacity at all levels – national, regional and continental. In this context, the EU is committed to supporting institutional development, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. EU support, based on dialogue and incentives, will build on the approach followed to integrate governance in the EDF programming, under the Governance Initiative, under which additional funding is provided to partner countries committed to engaging in reforms. EU support provided will apply the principle of African and local ownership and should follow African agendas.

33. Two particularly promising cases of Africa-owned governance reform programmes and democracy-building efforts are the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. To support the APRM process and the implementation of the Charter, and more broadly the pan-African governance architecture, the EU will set up an instrument that takes into account the positive experience with the African Peace Facility and which combines strong African ownership of programme design and imple-

mentation with provisions for strategic and political EU-level involvement. Specific support and cooperation are foreseen with the African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights, the Pan-African Parliament and the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).

34. Africa and the EU will together support the strengthening of the rule of law in Africa, through enhanced support for national Human Rights Commissions, national Parliaments and independent electoral commissions, as well as civil society organisations.

35. The AU and EU will also work together to support democratic elections in accordance with international and regional standards, including the AU standards for elections, through election assistance and electoral observation. To that end they will strive to reinforce the role of the AU, the regional organisations and of civil society in election observation in line with the UN-endorsed Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation of 2005 and the Durban Declaration on the Principles Guiding Democratic Elections in Africa.

36. Africa and the EU will enhance cooperation in the context of international initiatives to counter the illicit trade and to promote the transparent and equitable management of natural resources, such as the Kimberley certification process, the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). Africa and the EU will also, together, address issues relating to the fight against corruption, bribery, counterfeiting, money-laundering, tax-fraud, as well as other aspects of economic governance. In this context, both sides will take measures to facilitate the investigation and return of illegally acquired assets, including funds, to their countries of origin.

37. On all these issues, Africa and the EU recognise that civil society, the media and democratic institutions have important roles to play in ensuring transparency and accountability.

(...)

AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP ON PEACE AND SECURITY

RATIONALE

Peace and security lie at the foundation of progress and sustainable development. The objective of the Joint Strategy is to cooperate in enhancing the capacity of Africa and EU to respond timely and adequately to security threats, and also to join efforts in addressing global challenges.

PRIORITY ACTION 1: ENHANCE DIALOGUE ON CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND SECURITY

Objective

- ▶ Reach common positions and implement common approaches on challenges to peace and security in Africa, Europe and globally.

Expected outcomes

- ▶ Deepened common understanding on the causes of conflicts and their resolution;
- ▶ Strengthened cooperation on conflict prevention, management and resolution, including long-term post-conflict reconstruction and peace building;
- ▶ Improved coordination of continent-wide and regional approaches and initiatives;
- ▶ Increased EU and African cooperation and influence in international and global fora.

Activities

- ▶ Hold a systematic and regular dialogue on all issues related to peace and security, at technical, senior official and political levels in the most effective format. This dialogue could also include innovative tools such as conflict sensitivity analysis;
- ▶ Hold consultations, in an appropriate format, between the AU Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) and the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC);
- ▶ Facilitate ad hoc consultations for exchange and coordination at the highest political level;
- ▶ Coordinate efforts in relevant international fora on global issues of common concern;
- ▶ Set up mechanisms for consultation at ambassadorial level, in particular in Addis Ababa, Brussels and New York;
- ▶ Enhance capacity building and cooperation in the fight against terrorism;
- ▶ Enhance capacity building, networking, cooperation and exchange of information on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Anti-Personnel Landmines (APM), as well as fight against illicit trafficking;
- ▶ Enhance the sharing of analyses and reports on crisis and conflict situations, including on their root causes, and put in place the required security arrangements for the exchange of sensitive information;
- ▶ Address the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on the role of women in conflict and post-conflict situations and of UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on Children in Armed Conflicts;
- ▶ Raise awareness through campaigning involving African and European NGOs on mainstreaming human rights, gender issues, and children affected by armed conflict;
- ▶ Undertake joint assessment missions to conflict and post conflict areas, and launch joint initiatives when appropriate;
- ▶ Facilitate exchange of experience and lessons learned between EU and African mediators.
- ▶ Strengthen cooperation and enhance dialogue on issues relating to the security/development nexus, including on the identification and the use of best practices.

Actors

- ▶ AU Commission, African States, AU PSC, Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution, Pan-African Parliament, ECOSOCC, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT);
- ▶ European Commission, HR/Council Secretariat and EU Member States;
- ▶ African and EU Heads of Mission in Addis Ababa, Brussels and New York;
- ▶ Research centres, training centres, think tanks and relevant civil society actors;
- ▶ African and European local authorities.

Finance

- ▶ AU Peace Fund;
- ▶ Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as 10th EDF, Africa Peace Facility (APF), the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Instrument for Stability (IFS), CFSP-Budget;
- ▶ Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

PRIORITY ACTION 2: FULL OPERATION OF THE AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE (APSA)

Objective

- ▶ Effective functioning of the African Peace and Security Architecture to address peace and security challenges in Africa.

Expected outcomes

- ▶ Full operationalization of the various components of the APSA, in particular the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, and the African Standby Force;
- ▶ Enhanced capacities of AU and the regional mechanisms;
- ▶ Concrete progress in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts;
- ▶ Strengthened African capabilities through the implementation of relevant proposals in the Action Plan of the related EU Concept adopted in May 2007.

Activities

- ▶ Work towards the operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System, and facilitate cooperation between the AU Situation Room and corresponding structures in the EU;
- ▶ Work towards the operationalization of the African Standby Force and its civilian dimension, including through EU support for regional brigades training, exercises, validation and logistics (such as Euro-RECAMP);
- ▶ Facilitate training courses, exchanges of experts and of information, joint seminars and initiatives at continental, sub-regional and national levels;
- ▶ Strengthen coherence between different policies, initiatives, financial instruments and all relevant actors;
- ▶ Organize specific and regular co-ordination meetings;
- ▶ Establish and empower an EU-African civil society network capable of supporting peace and security initiatives;
- ▶ Strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms and effective post-conflict reconstruction, including through a reinforcement of the role of women;
- ▶ Enhance capacity-building, networking and collaboration between the AU and the EU regarding the implementation of the AU Policy on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

Actors

- ▶ AU Commission, African States, AU PSC, Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;
- ▶ EU Commission, Council Secretariat and EU Member States;
- ▶ Research centres, think tanks and relevant civil society actors;
- ▶ UN, G-8 and other relevant international actors.

Finance

- ▶ AU Peace Fund;
- ▶ Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance

to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, African Peace Facility (APF), ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability, CFSP-Budget;

- ▶ Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states.

PRIORITY ACTION 3: PREDICTABLE FUNDING FOR AFRICA-LED PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

Objective

- ▶ To financially enable the AU and regional mechanisms to plan and conduct Peace Support Operations.

Expected outcome

- ▶ Reduction of funding gaps and of the prejudicial uncertainty for African-led peace support operations;
- ▶ More effective deployment of these operations.

Activities

- ▶ Take steps towards the establishment of a predictable and sustainable funding mechanism, building on the experience of the African Peace Facility (APF) and EU and AU Member States' bilateral contributions;
- ▶ Work with G-8 and other members of the international community to contribute to the funding of African-led peace support operations;
- ▶ Work together to achieve, within the framework of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, a UN mechanism to provide sustainable, flexible and predictable financial support for peace keeping operations undertaken by the AU, or under its authority and with the consent of the UN Security Council.

Actors

- ▶ AU Commission, African States;
- ▶ European Commission, EU Council, EU Member States;
- ▶ Interested actors, such as UN, G-8, and other partners.

Finance

- ▶ AU Peace Fund;
- ▶ Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, African Peace Facility (APF), ENPI, DCI, Instrument for Stability, CFSP-Budget.
- ▶ Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states, as well as from other partners.

European Council

Brussels, 14 December 2007

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

(...)

FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

14. The European Council welcomes the enlargement of the Schengen area and the **abolition of controls at the internal borders** of the Member States participating in the SISone4ALL project, as from 21 December 2007 for land and sea borders, and by 30 March 2008 for air borders, thus extending the effective free movement of persons.

15. The European Council welcomes the establishment of the '**European Day against the Death Penalty**' on 10 October each year.

16. Further developing a **comprehensive European migration policy** complementing Member States' policies remains a fundamental priority in order to meet the challenges and harness the opportunities which migration represents in a new era of globalisation. The European Council accordingly underlines the need for a renewed political commitment and takes note in that respect of the Commission's communication on a common immigration policy. It looks forward to the Commission's forthcoming proposals in 2008.

17. Cooperation with third countries remains vital for the purpose of well-managed migration flows and fight against illegal immigration. The European Council welcomes the progress being made in the implementation of the **Global Approach to Migration** with regard to Africa and the Mediterranean, in particular the EU missions to African and the Mediterranean countries as well as the progress on the application of this Global Approach to the Eastern and South-Eastern neighbouring regions. It looks forward to the organisation of the second Euro-African ministerial conference on migration and development in 2008. It endorses the Council's conclusions of 10 December 2007 on mobility partnerships and circular migration and welcomes in that connection the decision to open dialogue with a view to launching pilot mobility partnerships with Cape Verde and the Republic of Moldova. The Commission is invited to report back on progress no later than June 2008. The recent Euro-Med Ministerial meeting on Migration contributed to further development of practical cooperation with the Mediterranean partners in all areas of migration. The European Council welcomes the adoption by the 2nd Africa/EU Summit of a Joint Strategy which identifies migration as an area of mutual priority for which both sides will seek common solutions; the Action Plan to the Joint Strategy contains a partnership on migration, mobility and employment with a number of concrete measures to be taken in the next three years.

18. The European Council endorses the Council conclusions of 19 November 2007 on coherence between migration and development policies and calls for further work in this field. The European Council underlines the importance of further engaging in dialogue with the Latin American and Caribbean region.

19. There is a close link between migration, employment and the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. The European Council acknowledges that migration can have a significant impact on growth potential and employment growth, labour markets, adjustment capacity, productivity,

competitiveness and public finances, whilst stressing that immigration is no substitute for structural reform. An effective immigration policy should be considered in the light of skills shortages and labour market requirements. Labour migration shall fully respect the Community acquis, Member States' competences in this field and the principle of Community preference for EU citizens. Recalling the meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers with Employment and Social Policy Ministers on 6 December, the European Council reaffirms that measures to promote integration are important, as are the efforts of migrants themselves to integrate.

20. The European Council invites the Council to take work forward on the recent Commission proposals on the admission of third country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment and on a single application procedure and a common set of rights for legally residing third country workers.

21. Combating illegal immigration requires concerted and effective measures directed to undeclared work and illegal employment, in particular through the effective enforcement of dissuasive sanctions. The Council and the European Parliament are invited to reach agreement by the end of 2008 at the latest on the proposals on sanctions against employers of illegally staying third country nationals. Work should also be taken forward following the Commission's communication on undeclared work.

22. The proper management of migration flows also requires work to be taken forward on the further strengthening of the integrated management of the external borders including addressing particular pressures faced by Member States, while fully respecting all international obligations. The European Council accordingly looks forward to the forthcoming Commission communications in February 2008 on an entry/exit system at the external borders, on the future development of Frontex and on a European Border Surveillance System.

23. The European Council also welcomes the progress made on the proposal for a Directive on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third country nationals. It underlines the need for agreement on common standards in the area of return policy and encourages the Council and European Parliament to continue their efforts to find a basis for a swift agreement on the proposal while bearing in mind the particular circumstances of each Member State. The European Council reaffirms the need for an effective readmission and return policy.

24. The European Council underlines the need for progress on the future Common European Asylum System with a view to its realisation by 2010. To this end, the European Council invites the Commission to evaluate the implementation of the first phase and to present the necessary initiatives in 2008.

25. Integration is a pivotal element of the comprehensive European migration policy. The European Council calls for better coordination between migration and integration policies. In the context of the 2008 year of intercultural dialogue the European Council calls on the Commission and the Member States to stress the opportunities, benefits and challenges of migration in a pluralistic Europe.

26. The European Council welcomes the conclusion of visa facilitation and readmission agreements between the European Union and four Western Balkan countries (Bosnia Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia), Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, as well as the visa facilitation agreement with Albania, based on the process and considerations laid down in the Common Approach. Visa facilitation should encourage these coun-

tries to implement the relevant reforms and reinforce their cooperation with the EU in areas such as strengthening the rule of law, fighting organised crime and illegal migration, and increasing the security of documents by introducing biometry.

27. The strengthening of **police and judicial cooperation** remains a priority. The functioning of Eurojust and Europol must be improved; for the latter, this requires the Council to reach agreement on the decision establishing Europol by the end of June 2008 at the latest and to review regularly the state of play regarding the Implementation Plan. The European Council also welcomes the general approach for a Council Framework Decision on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation. Cooperation through mutual recognition of decisions in criminal matters should be reinforced.

28. The European Council calls for rapid progress on the Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law.

29. Recent terrorist activity in Europe and numerous terrorist attacks elsewhere in the world reinforce the need for the Union and its Member States to remain fully committed to the implementation of the **Counter-Terrorism Strategy**.

30. The European Council welcomes important work recently undertaken in many areas of the Strategy such as on the security of explosives and weapons, on cooperation between special intervention units (ATLAS), on the protection of critical infrastructure, on countering biological, radiological and on other non-conventional threats and the development of the Union's crisis coordination arrangements. The European Council welcomes the appointment by the SG/HR of Gilles de Kerchove as Counter-Terrorism Coordinator. It welcomes the suggestions made by the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator with a view to further strengthening the implementation of Counter Terrorism Strategy and calls for work to be taken forward rapidly on them.

31. The European Council welcomes work recently undertaken under the European Union Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism notably as regards radicalisation of youth and the role of the internet. It calls for its further strengthening in particular through EU sectorial programmes and instruments both within the Union and in cooperation with third countries. To the effect, it notes the Commission's intention to submit a communication on best practices on countering violent radicalisation in the course of 2008.

32. The European Council welcomes the adoption of the Decision establishing a Community **Civil Protection Mechanism** (Recast) and invites the Council and the Commission to make the best use of this instrument, along with the civil protection Financial Instrument, with a view to be ready to cope with major emergencies in the future. In this context the European Council looks forward to the forthcoming Commission proposal on reinforcing the Union's disaster response capacity.

33. The European Council reaffirms the need to enhance **access to justice** in the European Union via simplified and more efficient and accessible procedures, welcomes the achievements in the area of E-justice and calls for the continuation of work.

34. The European Council welcomes the political agreement on the Directive on some aspects of mediation on civil and commercial matters which will allow citizens and business to have access to an alternative dispute resolution mechanism enabling them to solve their cross border disputes in an effective way and on the Regulation on the law applicable to contractual obligations (Rome I) which are important elements of the European Justice Area.

35. The Council is invited to find solutions on the Regulation on jurisdiction and applicable

law in matrimonial matters (Rome III). It is also invited to reach agreement on the Regulation on maintenance obligations taking into account the recent agreement on the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other forms of Family Maintenance. The European Council welcomes the signing of the new Lugano Convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters and calls for its swift ratification.

36. Recalling the Council conclusions of 8/9 November 2007 on combating **cybercrime** the European Council emphasises that further steps towards adopting a coherent EU policy in this respect are required.

37. The European Council welcomes the ongoing work within the Council and the Commission regarding **protection of children**.

(...)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

62. The European Council stresses the importance of deepening the relations between the European Union and its partners in an increasingly globalised World. The Summits held this semester with Brazil, Russia, Ukraine, China, India, ASEAN and Africa contributed to reinforce the EU's relations with these partners and to strengthen common ground in facing global challenges.

63. The summit held in July with **Brazil** launched a strategic partnership, aiming at upgrading the bilateral relationship and enhancing the political dialogue on global and regional issues as well as cooperation on a wide range of areas of common interest.

64. The European Council welcomes the second **EU/Africa summit** held on 8/9 December in Lisbon. The summit expressed the determination of the two sides to move to a new level in their relationship. To this end a Joint Africa/EU Strategy was adopted as well as an Action Plan aimed at ensuring concrete delivery on the new political and developmental ambitions. The Summit agreed to set up 8 partnerships on Peace and Security, Democratic Governance and Human Rights, Trade and Regional Integration, Millennium Development Goals, Energy, Climate change, Migration, Mobility and Employment, and Science, Information Society and Space. These partnerships will enable the joint addressing of issues of mutual concern, including of global nature, as well as helping the EU to make a better contribution to African development. The European Council acknowledges that in order to reach within the next three years concrete and tangible results, additional and combined efforts will be required from all relevant actors.

65. On **Kosovo**, the European Council noted the conclusion of the Troika process on 10 December and the final report submitted by the Contact Group to the United Nations Secretary-General. It expressed its gratitude to the Troika for having tirelessly explored all options to secure a negotiated settlement of the Status of Kosovo. In particular, it thanked Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, the EU's Representative to the Troika, for his efforts.

66. The European Council underlined that the negotiating process facilitated by the Troika between the parties on Kosovo's future Status has been exhausted. In this context, it deeply regretted that the two parties were unable to reach a mutually acceptable agreement despite the Troika's comprehensive and good faith efforts, fully supported by EU Member States.

67. The European Council welcomed the fact that both parties have committed repeatedly during the Troika process to refrain from any activities or statements which might endanger the

security situation and to avoid violence. This commitment to peace, which is also important for regional stability, must continue.

68. The European Council agreed with the UN Secretary-General that the status quo in Kosovo is unsustainable and, thus, stressed the need to move forward towards a Kosovo settlement, which is essential for regional stability. Such a settlement should ensure a democratic, multi-ethnic Kosovo committed to the rule of law, and to the protection of minorities and of cultural and religious heritage.

69. The European Council underlined its conviction that resolving the pending status of Kosovo constitutes a *sui generis* case that does not set any precedent.

70. The European Council noted that the United Nations Security Council will address this issue in December. The European Council underlined that the EU stands ready to play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region and in implementing a settlement defining Kosovo's future status. It stated the EU's readiness to assist Kosovo in the path towards sustainable stability, including by an ESDP mission and a contribution to an international civilian office as part of the international presences. The General Affairs and External Relations Council is invited to determine the modalities for the mission and when to launch it. The Secretary-General/High Representative is requested to prepare the mission in discussion with the responsible authorities in Kosovo and the United Nations. The EU will also be ready to assist economic and political development through a clear European perspective, in line with the European perspective of the region.

71. The European Council reaffirmed that the future of the Western Balkans lies within the European Union. It considered that a stable and prosperous Serbia fully integrated into the family of European nations is important for the stability of the region. In this regard, it encouraged Serbia to meet the necessary conditions to allow its Stabilisation and Association Agreement rapidly to be signed and, in the light of Serbia's considerable institutional capacity, and recalling its conclusions of December 2006, it reiterated its confidence that progress on the road towards the EU, including candidate status, can be accelerated.

72. The European Council reaffirms that the **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP) is a core priority within the EU's external action. The European Council, recalling its conclusions of June 2007 and keeping in mind the character of the ENP as a single and coherent policy framework following the principle of differentiation, welcomes the progress achieved. It welcomes the Commission's Communication of 5 December 2007 as well as the results of the ENP Conference on 3 September 2007 and invites the upcoming Presidencies to take this work forward in order to develop both the eastern and southern dimensions in bilateral and multilateral formats on the basis of the relevant Commission communications and proposals.

73. The European Council emphasises the strategic relevance of the relationship of the EU with the **Mediterranean countries** and welcomes the progress in developing the political and security dialogue, in the creation of an area of shared prosperity and in the implementation of the social, cultural and human partnership in accordance with the conclusions of the ministerial meetings of foreign affairs as well as in other important fields such as migration. The European Council welcomes Albania and Mauritania into the Barcelona Process.

74. The European Council welcomes the prospects for concluding a Framework Agreement with Libya in line with the Council Conclusions of October 2007, which should constitute a turning point on the development of a new stage in the relationship of the EU with this Mediterranean country, including on migration issues.

75. The European Council supports the progress achieved at the first meeting of the **Transatlantic Economic Council** on 9 November 2007 and looks forward to further tangible steps in the run-up to the next EU-US Summit.
76. The European Council welcomes the debate held and the conclusions adopted at the November General Affairs and External Relations Council on an EU response to **situations of fragility**, which highlight the importance of democratic governance, rule of law, respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the fight against poverty, having in mind the need to prevent and address situations of fragility and develop instruments to ensure quicker and more flexible responses in order to progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of the most vulnerable countries.
77. The European Council calls on the Commission to produce by April 2008 a report on progress towards the **Millennium Development Goals** and on what the EU can do to accelerate it. It will take stock at its meeting in June 2008.
78. The European Council warmly welcomes the adoption of an **EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid**, which will be signed on 18 December by the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament and shall be subsequently developed through a roadmap for action. This EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid will guide the EU humanitarian aid policy on the basis of the principles of impartiality, neutrality, humanity and independence.
79. The European Council remains seriously concerned by the situation in **Burma/Myanmar**. It reiterates the continuing important role of ASEAN, India and China and welcomes recent joint statements with them in support of on-going UN work by Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari and Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Sergio Pinheiro. The appointment of Mr Piero Fassino as EU Special Envoy for Burma/Myanmar to support the UN's good offices mission underlines the importance that the EU attaches to the improvement of the situation in Burma/Myanmar and the UN process.
80. In line with the General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions of 15 October, the European Council reaffirms that the EU stands ready to review, amend or further reinforce restrictive measures against the Government of Burma/Myanmar in the light of developments on the ground.
81. The EU is determined to assist the people of Burma/Myanmar further on their path to democracy, security and prosperity.
82. The European Council reaffirms its deep concern at **Iran's** nuclear program and underlines that the acquisition by Iran of a nuclear military capability would be unacceptable. In this regard, it deplores that Iran has still not complied with its international obligations as reiterated in UNSC Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747, to suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities in order to restore confidence in the entirely peaceful nature of its programme.
83. The European Council furthermore regrets that neither High Representative of the EU Javier Solana, following his discussions with the Iranian nuclear negotiator, nor the Director-General of IAEA Mohamed El Baradei were able to report a positive outcome, particularly in the fulfilment by Iran of the requirements of the UN Security Council.
84. The European Council calls upon Iran to provide full, clear and credible answers to the IAEA, to resolve all questions concerning Iran's nuclear activities, to ratify and implement the Additional Protocol and to fully implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement, including its subsidiary arrangements. It emphasises that carrying out these actions and the transparency measures as requested by the IAEA would constitute a positive

step to build confidence concerning Iran's nuclear programme.

85. The European Council reaffirms its full and unequivocal support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and underline that the proposals presented by the High Representative on 6 June 2006 would give Iran everything it needs to develop a civil nuclear power industry while addressing international concerns.

86. The European Council reiterates its full support for the work in the UN Security Council to adopt further measures under Article 41, Chapter VII, of the UN Charter and recalls that, following the General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions on Iran of 15 October, consideration has begun on additional measures that might be taken in support of the UN process and the shared objectives of the international community. In light of the upcoming decisions to be taken by the UN Security Council, the next General Affairs and External Relations Council will decide what action the EU will take.

87. The European Council expresses its full support for the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis launched at the **Annapolis** Conference and continued at the Paris Conference of Donors.

88. The European Council is greatly concerned about the situation in **Lebanon**. It considers that the delay in electing the President of the Republic is fraught with danger. The European Council joins the United Nations Secretary-General in attempting to convince all parties concerned to endeavour to respect the Lebanese constitutional process.

89. The EU is extremely concerned about the military escalation in **eastern Congo** and the consequent sufferings for the civilian population. It calls for an immediate end to the hostilities and reminds all parties that there is no military solution to the problem. The European Council reiterates its confidence in MONUC to fully play its role on the ground with a view to stabilising the region as soon as possible.

90. The **European Security Strategy** adopted in 2003 has proved very useful. It provides the Union with the relevant framework for its external policy. In the light of all evolutions which have taken place since, in particular the experiences drawn from ESDP missions, the European Council invites the SG/HR, in full association with the Commission and in close cooperation with the Member States, to examine the implementation of the Strategy with a view to proposing elements on how to improve the implementation and, as appropriate, elements to complement it, for adoption by the European Council in December 2008.

ANNEX – EU DECLARATION ON GLOBALISATION

Globalisation is increasingly shaping our lives by fostering the exchange of peoples, goods, services and ideas and by offering new **opportunities** to citizens and business. Greater trade flows and economic growth have increased prosperity, transforming the lifestyles of Europe's citizens and lifting millions worldwide out of poverty. But globalisation also confronts us with new economic, social, environmental, energy and security **challenges**.

We aim at **shaping globalisation** in the interests of all our citizens, based on our common values and principles. For this even the enlarged Union cannot act alone. We must engage our international partners in enhanced strategic cooperation and work together within stronger multilateral organisations. The Lisbon Treaty, in setting a reformed and lasting institutional framework improves our capacity to fulfil our responsibilities, respecting the core principles enshrined in the Berlin declaration. It will bring increased consistency to our external action.

The Union's internal and external policies need to be harnessed in order to respond to the opportunities and challenges of globalisation. We must deliver on the **Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs** and further develop the four freedoms within the Internal Market while ensuring a strong social dimension and respect for the environment. This will both enhance Member States' capacity to compete in a globalised world and increase the Union's collective ability to pursue its interests and values in the world. Further reforms at national and Community levels remain the key to long-term economic success. Investment in research, innovation and education should be strengthened as a central driver for growth and jobs and to ensure that all will benefit from the opportunities of globalisation.

The EU agreed very ambitious commitments **on climate change and energy** at the Spring 2007 European Council. We will deliver on our promises and show global leadership in these fields. Yet we know that without major partners tackling with us the challenges of climate change, our efforts would remain incomplete. The Union insists on the need for a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement involving most notably the U.S., Russia, China, India and Brazil, to be agreed at the latest in 2009. We will use our bilateral relations to promote joint research and technical co-operation. We should also seek ways of stepping up our development assistance in the environmental field and we will work towards increasing the role of International Financial Institutions in these issues.

Consistent macro-economic policies and stable **financial markets** are vital for sustained economic growth. The Euro already plays a major role for stability and growth in the global economy. The EU is a major global financial marketplace, benefiting from a single market for financial services and a sound supervisory framework. Work will have to be taken forward both within the EU and in the relevant international fora to improve prudential frameworks and transparency of financial markets.

The Union has always promoted free **trade** and openness as a means to foster growth, employment and development for itself and its trading partners and intends to continue taking the lead in this domain. We will continue striving for a balanced and global agreement in the Doha Development Agenda complemented by bilateral agreements. Dialogues with key trade partners, such as the one taking place in the context of the Transatlantic Economic Council, have started to help overcoming non tariff barriers to trade and investment. The European Union will press for increasingly open markets which should lead to reciprocal benefits. To this end, our partners must also demonstrate openness, on the basis of internationally agreed rules, in particular as concerns fair competition and the protection of intellectual property rights. With this in view the EU stands ready to assist its trade and investment partners in fostering global standards and in particular to support capacity-building in developing countries.

We will continue working with our partners to pursue vigorous and coherent **development strategies**. The European Union and its Member States are already by far the major Official Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid donor in the world. We will deliver on our commitments in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and expect others to do likewise. Promoting decent work and addressing the problem of communicable diseases and other global health issues also remains crucial. We recall that respect for democracy and human rights, including gender equality are fundamental for sustainable development.

The EU must be ready to share in the responsibility for **global security and stability**. Efficient use of instruments and development of capabilities of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy will allow the Union to play a grow-

ing part in building a safer world. The Union is committed to effective multilateralism and strong international organisations, starting with the UN. Tackling security challenges, like terrorism, organised crime and fragile States, will benefit from our continued and principled promotion of rule of law. At the same time, we will pursue our common internal program for Freedom, Security and Justice meeting our citizens' expectations to see their security and rights safeguarded.

In the era of globalisation **migration** is a challenge which is global in nature but mainly regional in its impact. We are further developing a comprehensive European migration policy in order to promote integration, manage legal migration and combat illegal immigration. By this we should be able to meet the challenges and reap the benefits that well-managed migration can bring for the EU and also for third countries.

The European Union is the largest market in the world and a major global player in promoting peace and prosperity. We are determined to remain so for the benefit of our citizens and people worldwide. Together, we will ensure that globalisation is a source of opportunity rather than a threat. For this, we will continue building a **stronger Union for a better world**.

PRESIDENCY REPORT ON ESDP

1. In line with the mandate defined by the European Council in June 2007, 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

Africa

Operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA

3. The EU strongly reaffirmed its support to the United Nations' (UN) and the African Union's (AU) ongoing efforts to solving the conflict in Darfur within a comprehensive and regional approach.
4. Following the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), which has approved the deployment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence and authorised the EU to provide its military element, the EU decided to take action on 15 October 2007, through Council Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP, by further planning a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (**EUFOR Tchad/RCA**) in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, for a period of one year from the date that its initial operational capability is declared. EUFOR Tchad/RCA is neutral, multinational and independent.
5. The planning of the operation is taking place in full coordination with the UN and in consultation with African partners, and its deployment has been welcomed by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic.
6. The deployment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA is a concrete expression of the EU's comprehensive commitment to actively work for the improvement of the security situation in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic, by contributing to the protection of refugees and IDPs, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping to create the conditions for displaced people to return to their places of origin voluntarily, as well as contributing to ensure MINURCAT's security and freedom to operate.
7. The intention of the Commission is to contribute substantially to the UN program for the establishment of the UN Police force, and, following the requests made by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic, to implement transitional programs of recovery and rehabilitation covering reconciliation orientated activities, support to the voluntary return of IDPs and to the rehabilitation in their places of origin, and support to local governance.

EU civilian-military supporting action to the African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS II)

8. The EU has continued **its civilian-military supporting action to the African Union (AU) Mission (AMIS)** in the Darfur region of Sudan. The EU has given military assistance in the form of technical support and expertise, throughout the AMIS command structure, along with financial and logistic support, including in the area of strategic air transport in coopera-

tion with NATO through a joint airlift coordination cell in Addis Abeba. The EU also provides the Vice-President of the Cease-Fire Commission. AMIS running costs, moreover, are met out of the Africa Peace Facility (as well as by a number of other donors, including various EU Member States).

9. EU police officers continued to play a key role in building AMIS civilian policing capacity through support, advice and training for the AMIS police chain of command and police officers on the ground. The EU is also continuing its support for the development of AU policing capacity and the establishment of a police unit within the AU Commission in Addis Abeba.

10. The EU has worked closely with the UN and the AU to support implementing the UN Heavy Support Package with the perspective of transitioning to the full AU/UN hybrid mission (UNAMID). The EU has also maintained close and effective co-ordination with institutional and bilateral donors and worked closely and effectively with the UN, as well as with NATO, regarding military support in theatre.

11. The EU support to AMIS and to the build-up of UNAMID within the framework of AMIS is expected to continue until the transfer of authority from AMIS to UNAMID, as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2007 (as stated in UNSCR 1769). It is envisaged that from this date, the EU supporting action will come to an end.

12. The EU Special Representative for Sudan has continued to play a key role in co-ordinating the EU's support to the AU with other donors and actors in the region and continues to provide support to the AU and the UN in their efforts to take forward the political process in Darfur.

Democratic Republic of Congo

13. ESDP missions, together with European Community activities, have contributed to the overall efforts in support of Security Sector Reform (SSR) process in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to the preparation for a possible SSR Round Table through the provision of expertise to the different domains (Police, Justice and Defence).

a. EUSEC RD Congo

14. Whilst the tense situation in the East of the country has continued to require Government's attention, work has nevertheless proceeded in the field of Security Sector Reform. The mission **EUSEC RD Congo** has contributed, along with other international partners of Congolese defence authorities, to the definition of a future Armed Forces model for the DRC.

15. Although the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process remains stalled since December 2006, EUSEC RD Congo efforts aiming at ensuring an accurate census through biometric means of the Armed Forces personnel have continued.

16. In addition to increasing political monitoring and pressure, the need to invest in public diplomacy is recognised to better convey to the public the role of the EU and of the International Community in support of SSR in DRC.

17. The chain-of-payments project has been working with the Congolese Ministry of Defence to reorganise its financial administrative system. The project has achieved significant progress, notably the better delivery of salaries to the military, and should be complete by the end of the current mandate in June 2008. An audit of most components of the Armed Forces has been conducted and communicated to the Congolese authorities.

b. EUPOL RD Congo

18. On 1 July 2007, the new EU ESDP SSR Police Mission and its interface with justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo (EUPOL RD Congo), took over from EUPOL Kinshasa (which was successfully concluded on 30 June 2007). It aims at assisting the Congolese authorities in reforming and restructuring the 'Police Nationale Congolaise' (PNC) and in improving the overall functioning of the criminal justice system, through a justice interface.

The mission has since then significantly contributed to laying out the preparatory steps in the PNC reform process.

19. The mission jointly with the relevant European Commission's Services, including EC Delegation, has supported the creation of the CSRP (Comité de Suivi de la Réforme de la Police), and supports its full implementation; the CSRP is a mixed local/international coordination committee in charge of the reform of the police, which is now working on a number of critical areas, such as police regulations, training policies and Human Resources management.

20. The mission is now almost fully staffed and three EUPOL RD Congo experts (in the field of security, human rights/children in armed conflict, and press and public information) are working as well in support of EUSEC RD Congo.

Guinea Bissau

21. Following an initial joint Council-Commission information gathering mission in May 2007 to **Guinea Bissau**, consideration was given to a possible option for an ESDP advice and assistance mission in support of the national Security Sector Reform process.

22. The Council considered that such ESDP action would be appropriate, in coherence with and complementary to European Development Fund and other Community activity, and in December 2007 agreed a General Concept for an ESDP mission. It is proposed that the mission would consist of senior military and civilian advisers in the fields of armed forces, police and justice plus support staff.

23. The objective of the mission will be to provide advice and assistance on reform of the security sector in Guinea Bissau to the local authorities in order to contribute to creating the conditions for implementation of the National SSR Strategy, in close cooperation with other EU, international and bilateral actors, and with a view to facilitating subsequent donor engagement.

24. Planning is ongoing, with a view to the mission deploying in Spring 2008 for a maximum period of 12 months, subject to the invitation of the Guinea Bissau authorities. Once the conditions have been created, successful implementation of SSR will depend on the commitment of funds and resources by the international community and the commitment of the local authorities to promote SSR implementation. Any subsequent requirement for ESDP engagement in SSR implementation remains to be determined.

Asia

EUPOL Afghanistan

25. Following Council approval of the Concept of Operations on 3 May 2007 and the adoption of the Joint Action on 30 May 2007, the EU ESDP police mission for Afghanistan, EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, was launched on 15 June 2007.

26. The strategic objective of the mission is to contribute to the establishment under Afghan

ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system and in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

27. The mission is working towards a joint overall strategy of the international community in police reform, including through the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB), and help coordinate participating donors' police reform efforts. It is supporting the Government of Afghanistan in coherently implementing the strategy, through monitoring, mentoring, advising and training at the central, regional and provincial levels.

28. Deployment so far is to the capital Kabul, the Northern regional command in Mazar-e-Sharif, and Kunduz, Badakhstan and Ghowr provinces. The deployment plan is that the mission will realise its full deployment by mid-March 2008. EUPOL Afghanistan has already taken on a key role, working closely with the EUSR and international and Afghan counterparts to restructure the police reform architecture in Afghanistan. Mentors and advisers are deployed at the central level with Ministry of Interior and police authority key officials.

Western Balkans

Operation Althea

29. Following the successful reconfiguration of Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) the EU-led force (EUFOR) now numbers some 2500 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves. Its operational focus remains the maintenance of a safe and secure environment and the transfer of Joint Military Affairs (JMA) tasks to relevant national authorities. Elements of the European Gendarmerie Force have participated in the Integrated Police Unit of EUFOR since November 2007. The mandate of the operation was extended for a further 12-month period by the UN Security Council on 21 November 2007 (UNSCR 1785).

30. The Council reviewed Operation ALTHEA on 10 December and welcomed the positive contribution of the operation to the safe and secure environment in BiH. The Council approved the Secretary General/High Representative's recommendations on Operation ALTHEA in the light of the advice received from relevant Council bodies. While noting that the security situation remains stable, the Council follows with concern recent political developments in BiH. The Council reiterated that EUFOR continues to provide reassurance and remains ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country. The Council stressed that the EU remained actively committed to BiH, including through Operation ALTHEA, and agreed that, as part of the EU's overall engagement in the country, the EU-led military presence would remain there for as long as necessary.

31. Coherence of EU action in BiH – involving all EU actors including the Commission and EU Heads of Mission – remains a priority. EUFOR has maintained a close working relationship, including on operational matters, with its EU partners and other international actors. Cooperation with the EUPM in supporting the fight against organised crime, on the basis of Common Operational Guidelines, is well established and has proved effective. The EU Force Commander, the EUSR and the Head of EUPM continue to consult each regularly prior to taking action. This co-operation and co-ordination has been enshrined in the mandates (Joint Actions) of the relevant actors. Co-operation with NATO continues to work well in respect of Operation ALTHEA.

EUPM

32. The EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM) promoted and supported intensively the reform of the police. However, BiH was not yet able to make significant progress in police restructuring. Recalling its conclusions of 15 October 2007, the Council reiterated that **police reform** remains the key priority and one of the four necessary conditions for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

33. Despite this difficult political situation, EUPM has progressed in developing sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership, including in its work to support the fight against organised crime. With its targeted approach based on a thorough crime situation analysis, EUPM contributed to a further consolidation of institution- and capacity-building, in particular of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) and Border Police.

34. Considering that, at the end of EUPM's second mandate, the desired end-state will not have been fully reached, the Council has decided to extend the Mission for another two years until the 31st December 2009. A continuation of current activities is foreseen in view of a possible involvement of European Community assistance as of 2010.

35. Through its various instruments, including ESDP, the EU has contributed to security sector reform in Bosnia-and-Herzegovina.

EUPT Kosovo/Possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo

36. The EU has continued its preparations for a possible civilian ESDP Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. The mandate of the **EU Planning Team for Kosovo (EUPT Kosovo)**, set up in April 2006, has been amended and extended by the Council until 31st March 2008.

37. Since the adoption by the Council of a crisis management concept for the possible ESDP mission in Kosovo on 11 December 2006, planning has proceeded with the development of a draft concept of operations. The Head of the possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo was designated and is fully engaged in the planning process.

38. Cooperation with all relevant international stakeholders in Kosovo has continued on the ground and in Brussels. Preparatory work for procuring the necessary equipment, including taking over essential equipment from the UN, has been undertaken. In addition, preparatory work for the force generation has been taken forward, with the identification of the senior staff of the possible ESDP mission and the launch of an informal and indicative call for contribution for the rest of the staff. Training activities have taken place in Brussels and in Pristina with the support of the European Community. Contacts have continued with third states that could contribute to the possible ESDP mission.

Eastern Europe and South Caucasus**EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia**

39. The mandate of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus was extended until 29 February 2008, prolonging also the activities of the **EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia**. The team continues its work on assisting in the development of a strategy for reform of the Georgian Border Guard service, which is in line with the EU-Georgia ENP Action Plan Priority Area 4 and its work in the field, including in developing Standard Operating Procedures at HQ, regional and sector level. Additionally, the team is assisting in the drafting of joint procedures (Customs-Border Police) for cooperation and coordination of

border crossing point operations in accordance with the European Concept for Integrated Border Management.

EUSR Border Team and EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine

40. The **Border Team of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova** continued its activities in contributing to enhancement of cooperation at the Transnistrian segment of the border between Moldova and Ukraine. The activities of the Border Team have been prolonged until 29 February 2008, following the extension of the mandate of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova.

41. The work of the Border Team of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova took place in close collaboration with the **EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine)**, which is a European Commission activity, staffed to a large extent by seconded experts from EU Member States. EUBAM promotes co-ordinated action of and assists the governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in areas involving border, customs and fiscal matters, including through monitoring activities.

42. EUBAM is based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Memorandum of Understanding establishing EUBAM was extended for an additional period of 24 months starting from 1 December 2007. The Head of EUBAM is also carrying out the function of Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova.

Middle East

EUPOL COPPS

43. The **EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)** was launched on 1 January 2006 with a three-year mandate in order to assist the Palestinian Civilian Police (PCP) in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements under Palestinian ownership in accordance with best international standards.

44. Following the establishment of a Palestinian Government under Salaam Fayyad, the EU agreed in July 2007 to the Mission's expansion and re-engagement and in October approved the EUPOL COPPS Action Plan Outline. The mission has now taken on more police and rule of law experts. It has delivered public order training in Jericho, assisted by experts from EUBAM Rafah, and has enabled the provision of equipment to the PCP including computers. The mission has also completed an audit of the PCP which sets out a clear picture of the PCP's urgent requirements. The Head of Mission mandate was extended until the end of 2008. The ability of the mission to carry out its mandate is however seriously affected by the lack of accreditation from Israel.

EUBAM Rafah

45. The **EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah)** provided its last third-party presence at the Rafah Crossing point (RCP) on 9 June 2007.

After the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point on 14 June 2007, as a consequence of the takeover of Gaza by Hamas, the mission suspended its operations, while preserving its operational ability to redeploy at short notice.

46. The Council reiterated its commitment to the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah

Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah), to the Agreements concluded and to the region, in particular the Gaza population. It underlined the importance of the implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access by all parties. The Mission is currently exploring options to assist the capacity-building of the Palestinian Authority customs and border police. A new assessment of the operational situation of the Mission is foreseen in January 2008.

EUJUST LEX

47. The EU's Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX) is aiming at strengthening the rule of law in Iraq and promoting human rights through providing training courses and work-experience secondments in EU member States for senior Iraqi police, judicial and penitentiary personnel in management and criminal investigation.

48. EUJUST LEX has provided training to 1409 Iraqi judges, prosecutors, senior members of the police force and senior penitentiary personnel. 58 courses and 9 work placement secondments have taken place so far. EUJUST LEX is ensuring Iraqi ownership and works closely with Iraqi interlocutors in order to make sure that it delivers training which corresponds to Iraqi needs.

49. The mandate of EUJUST LEX, which will continue its work in partnership with Iraqi Authorities and other international actors, has been extended until 30th June 2009.

50. A Head of Mission's Special Report on Evaluation Activities confirmed that the mission's objectives are being fulfilled.

II. Planning and conduct of civilian missions and military operations

51. As of July 2007, new arrangements were implemented for command and control (C2) of EU civilian operations in crisis management as agreed by Council in June 2007. A **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability** (CPCC) has been established within the Council Secretariat. The acting Director of CPCC has been appointed as the Civilian Operations Commander for certain civilian ESDP operations through the respective amended Joint Actions and has taken overall responsibility for the duty of care of personnel in ESDP civilian crisis management missions. The **Directorate for Civilian Crisis Management** (DGE IX) has continued to deal with political, strategic and horizontal issues related to civilian crisis management, including lesson's learned and training. It is also responsible for the Crisis Management Concept in operational planning that sets out the political objectives and mandate of a future operation.

52. The **Civil-Military Cell** continued to promote the development of the "watchkeeping" capability in the Council General Secretariat, in line with the Hampton Court Follow on. It also continued to plan and prioritise its strategic contingency planning and to promote a comprehensive civil-military approach to crisis management.

53. The **EU Operations Centre**, which reached operational capability on 1 January 2007, has been successfully activated for the first time during MILEX 07 in June 2007. The initial lessons learned were considered for subsequent identification of possible actions to be taken for improving this capability, taking into account the impact of the activation of the Operations Centre on the daily work of the EUMS, the weaknesses of the EU Operations Centre manning model and the SG/HR report on the military strategic planning capacity of the EUMS, as appropriate. A first group of civilian augmentees were selected and trained for the Operations Centre.

54. The Council welcomed the report by the SG/HR on the **EU Military Staff's ability to conduct planning at the strategic level** for EU-led operations, as requested by the Council in May 2007, and approved the recommendations to implement, as a package, the four measures, together with the actions identified in the military advice. It also agreed to revert to this issue as soon as practicable during the course of 2008, including the need for any additional personnel, on the basis of an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the measures and actions in responding to the Council request to the SG/HR.

III. Lessons Learned

55. A number of recommendations were made by the **EUPOL Kinshasa** Head of Mission (HoM) in his Final Report presented in late October. Member States have expressed their support to the recommendations made by the HoM and have underlined the need to consider them in preparing an overall Lessons Learned process for Civilian ESDP missions, notably taking due account of logistics and procurement issues, as agreed by the Political and Security Committee (PSC) on 13 November.

56. The implementation of consolidated lessons learned from EUFOR RD Congo has been ongoing, and many of the lessons have been applied in the planning of subsequent operations, including EUFOR Tchad/RCA.

IV. Capabilities

a. Development of European civilian capabilities

Civilian Headline Goal 2008 and New Civilian Headline Goal 2010

57. In accordance with the task given by the Council to the Portuguese Presidency in June 2007, the **CHG 2008 was successfully concluded**. The CHG 2008 has fulfilled its intended objectives and provided a sound basis for future capability development efforts for civilian crisis management under ESDP. Among its achievements are the creation of a set of scenarios corresponding to possible future challenges for civilian ESDP, the advance appreciation of actual ESDP mission requirements, the production of a comprehensive reference list of needed civilian capabilities, the creation of a tool facilitating mission planning and recruitment, the production of recommendations and guidelines on the raising of personnel, and the increased awareness of civilian ESDP within Member States and potential contributors to ESDP action. A Final Report on CHG 2008 was approved by the Council on 19 November 2007.

58. Under the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 (CHG 2008), important work was done in the field of civilian ESDP capability development. However, as ESDP ventures further afield and diversifies in its tasks and missions, a growing need develops for crisis management capabilities to allow the EU to respond to the whole spectrum of crisis management tasks, using all available means in a coherent and co-ordinated way. Building upon the results achieved and lessons learned, EU Ministers have adopted a **new Civilian Headline Goal** on 19 November, **namely the CHG 2010**.

59. The CHG 2010 aims at ensuring that the EU is able to conduct crisis management activities, in line with the European Security Strategy, by deploying appropriate civilian capabilities in a timely fashion. Among its main objectives are the improvement of the quality of civilian

resources, the enhancement of their availability, and the achievement of synergies with the military ESDP capabilities, with the European Community and with third pillar actors, as well as to enhance or strengthen co-ordination and co-operation with external actors, as appropriate. CHG 2010 will be carried out in line with the Civilian ESDP capability planning process as agreed by Council.

Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference 2007

60. The EU Ministers, convened on 19 November 2007 in the **Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference**, adopted a Declaration whereby they approved the Final Report on Civilian Headline Goal 2008, and agreed the new Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and a Civilian ESDP capability planning process CRT concepts and deployment

61. The implementation of the CRT concept was continued and decisions taken on its further refinement on the basis of an inventory of the CRT pool of experts. A new call for CRT nominations was launched to complete the pool with 30 new experts to be trained in 2008.

62. Since the establishment of the CRT pool, a total of 7 Calls for CRT Deployment have been launched leading to 5 CRT deployments. In the second half of 2007, CRT experts were deployed to support the ongoing mission EUPOL Afghanistan and a CRT team was deployed in support to EUPM in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Framework Contracts

63. In the field of procurement, the first framework contract tender processes were launched through publication of a tender notice for armoured vehicles, and of forecast notices for (a) normal vehicles and (b) Communication and Information Technology equipment and services.

Rapid availability of financing

64. Lack of rapid availability of financing has been identified as a problem for the operational capacity of civilian crisis management operations in the start-up phase. The follow-up of the meeting of Heads of state or government at Hampton Court has continued through the adoption of detailed procedures for having recourse to the Preparatory measures budget line of the CFSP inter alia to assess the operational requirements, to provide for rapid initial deployment of resources or to establish the conditions on the ground for the launching of civilian crisis management operations.

b. Development of European military capabilities

65. Within the Headline Goal 2010 (HLG 2010) process, ten Member States had offered new contributions aimed at mitigating capability shortfalls identified during the preparation of the Progress Catalogue 2007. The **Force Catalogue 2007 (FC07)**, which presents Member States' contributions for 2010 against the required capabilities as defined in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 (RC 05), was subsequently revised. The revised FC07 was noted by the Council on 15 October 07, which also approved its transmission to NATO for information purposes.

66. The **Progress Catalogue 2007 (PC07)** was approved by the Council on 19 November. This catalogue is based on the requirements set in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 and on Member States' scrutinised contributions gathered in the FC 07. In addition to a broad confirmation of the findings of the Helsinki Progress Catalogue (HPC03), it provides a structured

evaluation of the identified capability shortfalls, both in qualitative and quantitative terms. It sets out potential operational risks to ESDP operations. From an initial orientation based on the impact of the capability shortfalls, recommendations have been derived, including the need to take additional information into consideration. PC07 concludes that the EU can conduct the full spectrum of military ESDP operations within the parameters of the Strategic Planning Assumptions, with different levels of risk caused by the recognized shortfalls.

67. The Council encouraged Member States to undertake the appropriate actions in order to address the identified capability shortfalls, including through good use of opportunities for co-operation aiming at improving the EU's capability to act, and the European Defence Agency (EDA) to continue being actively involved in capability development in close cooperation with the EU Military Committee (EUMC), including through the establishment of concrete projects and programmes.

68. The PC07 and follow-on work on further prioritisation of capability shortfalls will provide significant inputs for the **Capability Development Plan (CDP)**, which Member States are elaborating through the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the EU Military Committee (EUMC). The CDP should be used as a tool to orientate the Member States in their work on investments in the capabilities area.

69. **A new capability planning process is currently not required**, as the European Security Strategy has remained unchanged and the EU military level of ambition has not been modified. All efforts should be focused on the current process.

70. The Study Report on possibilities and options to support the EU capability development process with **Operational Analysis (OA)** Tools and Techniques was presented to the EUMC on 25 July. The EUMC will revert to the issue and to the study on **Information Gathering (IG)** tools once options on work to be conducted after PC07 have been addressed and once a decision on OA tools and techniques has been taken by the PSC.

71. The transfer of the **European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP)** Project Groups (PGs) within the European Defence Agency processes has been completed. Three ECAP PG's remained active: Air Missile Defence, Headquarters and Special Operations Forces. They were mandated to complete their deliverables by the end of 2007. Following an ECAP PG Review Report presented on 13 June, the EUMC will review ECAP PGs status in the framework of short-fall management resulting from PC 07.

72. Based on a tri-Presidency (Germany-Portugal-Slovenia) Food-for-Thought paper, work has started on a possible revision of the **EU Military Rapid Response Concept**, from a joint perspective and taking into account the comprehensive approach to crisis management, bearing in mind the EU's level of ambition as laid down in the Headline Goal 2010 process. This review shall be concluded in 2008. It will take due account of the Battlegroup Concept and the ongoing work on the Maritime Rapid Response and the Air Rapid Response Concepts. The aforementioned concepts have to be coherent with the overarching EU Military Rapid Response Concept.

73. Pursuant to the findings of the EU Maritime Dimension Study, a draft **Maritime Rapid Response Concept** was approved by the EUMC on 15 November. The Concept aims at facilitating the rapid generation of EU maritime assets and capabilities.

74. A draft **Air Rapid Response Concept** is under elaboration, with a view to generating a military effective, credible and coherent rapid response air capability within the framework of HLG 2010. This concept is based on the Rapid Response Air Initiative, which was noted by the

EUMC in October. When agreed the EUMS will be invited to present timelines for the implementation of the concept, conduct a validation exercise (CPX) and develop the EUFOR Deployable Operating Base (DOB) implementing doctrine, based on the Concept.

75. Since 1 January 2007, two **Battlegroups** have been on stand-by permanently. At the six-monthly Battlegroups Co-ordination Conference (BGCC) on 11 October, Member States have committed the required Battlegroup packages up to and including the first semester of 2010. The period is further consolidated by confirmation of the EL-BG-RO-CY Battlegroup for the first semester of 2009. New offers at next BGCC in April 2008 are necessary to fill vacant slots, in particular in the second semester of 2010.

76. Following the meeting of the Chiefs of Defence in May, EUMC launched work on the improvement of operational effectiveness of EU BGs through standardisation in support of MS-led BG preparatory activities, without reviewing the EU BG Concept. A methodology and a roadmap for this work were agreed by EUMC in October. In addition, the EUMC reached a common understanding on the meaning of the standby period.

77. The main elements of the recommendations of the **Global Approach on Deployability** (GAD) Study, aimed at identifying the needs for the co-ordination, interaction, roles and responsibilities of transportation enablers, have been completed. The findings are shared with NATO, in line with the CDM, to ensure transparency and coherence and to progress areas of common interest. The EUMS EU Movement Planning Cell received its new establishment of staff members during July/August 2007 and, following their ADAMS courses in December 2007, will be able to undertake their tasks as envisaged by the GAD study.

c. European Defence Agency

78. The Head of the Agency's report on the European Defence Agency's activities confirmed that the Agency continued to deliver substantial results from an agenda addressing the immediate and the longer-term goals.

79. The Agency made substantial progress on the development and implementation of long-term strategies:

- a Capability Development Plan, as mentioned above, aiming at identifying priorities for capability improvement and on bringing out opportunities to pool resources and to cooperate. The methodology and the roadmap for developing the CDP were approved on 28 June 2007, and results – in the form of actionable conclusions – are expected before summer 2008. Work on respective Strands of the CDP has continued, with the active involvement of all stakeholders.
- a European Defence Technological and Industrial Basis (DTIB) strategy, whose implementation is underway with the endorsement last September by the NADs' Steering Board of a number of roadmaps setting clear milestones and a first review of progress by the Steering Board in Ministers' formation next May;
- a European Defence Research and Technology (R&T) strategy covering both Ends (including the definition of key technologies for Europe) and Means, to be developed on the basis of a Framework supported by the Steering Board.

80. Furthermore, the Steering Board agreed on enablers for enhancing cooperation, which will be used to underpin the Armaments strategy to develop in 2008.

81. The Agency also delivered achievements concerning a number of policies and initiatives, in particular:

- ▶ generally successful implementation of the Code of Conduct on defence procurement, as assessed by the Steering Board in NADs formation last September. The Electronic Bulletin Board is functioning well and the number and volume of contracts advertised keep increasing. However the Council noted that too few cross-border contracts had been awarded and called for the situation to improve;
- ▶ positive implementation of the (first) Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme – on Force Protection – with the first tranche of projects approved by the Management Committee and the first contracts to be signed in December this year;
- ▶ adoption by the Steering Board in NADs’ formation of a Code of Conduct for promoting transparency and encouraging coordination of investments in the field of defence test and evaluation facilities, in order to improve cooperation among participating Member States and reduce overcapacities;
- ▶ progress made in the area of Software Defined Radio (SDR), Network Enabled Capabilities (with the selection of a Wise Pen tasked to produce a draft NEC Concept by the next Summer); Operational Intelligence; 21st Century Soldier System (agreement on a new category B (opt-in) programme for “Combat Equipment for the Dismounted Soldier”, with 9 contributing Member States); strategic transport (on-going work on the identification of solutions for improving the future EU capability); Information Exchange Requirements;
- ▶ approval by the Steering Board of collective benchmarks regarding equipment procurement and defence research technology, including collaborative expenditures.
- ▶ Agency’s efforts to seek synergies between civilian and military activities, in consultation and coordination with the European Commission especially in the areas of SDR, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (on-going work on the Insertion in General Air Traffic by 2012), and Maritime Surveillance.

V. Civil-Military Co-ordination

82. In July 2007 the PSC noted the work on the identification of Information Exchange Requirements (IER) including a Roadmap as well as a Global Overview aiming at defining operational requirements for exchanging information between all entities, both civilian and military, that may interact in support of ESDP operations with a view to a comprehensive approach. This work will continue, and will need to be undertaken in co-ordination with work on ESDP Network Enabled Capabilities (NEC), for consideration by the Council bodies, including the PSC.

VI. EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

83. The **EU Satellite Centre** continued to provide products and services in support of ESDP related activities. This covered support for ongoing and planned EU operations and missions, in particular in relation to EU actions in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic, the Balkans region, contingency planning, as well as in relation to a possible EU involvement in support of the Security Sector Reform in Guinea Bissau. The EUSC has continued its close co-operation with the UN. It has taken an active role in the framework of the European initiative of Global Monitoring for Environment and Security.

VII. EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

84. The **EU Institute for Security Studies** continued its work with regard to research, debate and analysis on security issues. The Institute formed a focal point for academic exchange, networking and monitoring of the European security agenda as well as a policy-orientated think tank supplying European policy-makers with analysis, advice and suggestions.

The Institute has organised seminars regarding Darfur on 9 July 2007, the Western Balkans on 20 July 2007, the Middle East on 30 October in Washington, the Annual Conference on 22 and 23 November, as well as a brainstorming session on the future of EU defence and NATO on 11 December 2007.

VIII. ESDP and Space

85. The work on the actions identified in the Initial Road Map for the 'European Space Policy: ESDP and Space' has continued within the framework set by the European Space Policy.

86. In the aftermath of the EUISS seminar on the security dimension of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) the General Council Secretariat has worked together with the European Commission on the identification of end-user communities for future security applications and on specific generic requirements to fulfil security missions.

IX. Security and Development

The Council emphasised that ESDP operations are an essential tool of the EU wide array of policies and instruments and therefore of its capacity to be a global actor. Accordingly, ESDP operations are increasingly planned and implemented in a coherent way with EU development and co-operation policies and actions in pursuit of common strategic objectives.

87. There cannot be sustainable development without peace and security, and there will be no sustainable peace without development and poverty eradication as the 2003 European Security Strategy and the 2005 European Consensus on Development put it.

88. The adoption by the Council in November 2007 of Conclusions on the nexus between security and development is a major contribution to the coherence of EU external action, whilst recognising that the responsibilities and roles of development and security actors are complementary but remain specific.

89. The Council has identified initial actions in the areas of strategic planning, SSR, partnerships with regional and sub regional organisations, and humanitarian aid and security. In the area of partnerships, the work undertaken in the framework of the EU-Africa Partnership may be seen as a way forward for a coherent and holistic approach, based on the principle of ownership, while pursuing respective security priorities.

90. Lessons learned from past experiences and concrete steps in a few specific countries where ESDP missions and operations and/or CFSP, Community and bilateral Member States activities are being planned or conducted are important in this context. Possible examples are:

Chad, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Afghanistan.

Further examples of a coherent holistic EU approach could be considered from other regions and/or countries, namely the Western Balkans.

91. The first joint meeting of Defence and Development Ministers and the conclusions on the security and development nexus should be seen as the start of the process that must be continued, sustained and further extended to other important aspects of the nexus. The Commission and the Council General Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Member States, have been invited to take the work on security and development forward, including the elaboration of an action plan, under the guidance of future Presidencies.

X. Human Rights Issues and Gender Issues

92. Human Rights issues and Gender Issues continued to be systematically included in the planning and conduct of all ESDP operations, and subsequently evaluated in the lessons learned process. The implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1612 and relevant EU documents on Human Rights issues and Gender issues is stressed, including by the publication of the compilation or relevant EU documents on mainstreaming (doc. 11359/07 EXT01), the development of a generic pocket card for ESDP personnel as well as further training efforts, particularly with a view to achieving more concrete progress in this field on the ground.

93. Closer cooperation on these issues with EUSRs is necessary, whose mandates now contain specific provisions to address Human Rights issues and Gender issues. In this context, the invitation to Member States to nominate more female candidates for CFSP/ESDP senior management positions, including for EUSRs as well as for ESDP Missions in general, in order to facilitate an improved gender balance, is much welcomed.

XI. Conflict Prevention

94. The European Union continued its efforts in the area of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts and the European Security Strategy. Efforts were pursued to further strengthen its instruments both from a conceptual point of view and across the wide spectrum of its conflict prevention activities, with a view to enhancing coherence between the EU's various external policy instruments as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States.

95. The annual report on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, adopted by the European Council in June 2007, recommended that the European Union 'examine possible ways of taking account of Member States' relevant activities in the field of conflict prevention'. To this end, a questionnaire aimed at assisting this process and contributing to a broad overview of Member States' activities and capabilities in this area has been adopted by the PSC on 10 October, 2007 and it was sent to the Member States. The results of the questionnaire will serve as an additional basis for drafting a first assessment of the preparedness of Member States in the field of conflict prevention.

96. A Conference '**From early warning to early action – Developing the EU's Response to Crisis and longer term Threats**' was organised by the European Commission and took place on 12-13 November 2007. Its aim was to assess the latest developments in EU crisis management, crisis preparedness and conflict prevention. The Conference also looked into how to improve the EU's crisis response capabilities/capacities, addressed longer-term transregional threats.

97. A Conference on 'Transatlantic co-operation in civilian crisis management: Best practices

in building capabilities and planning for action' organised by the Crisis Management Initiative with the support of the Portuguese Presidency was held in Brussels on 8 November 2007.

98. A workshop on 'Conflict Prevention – Creating a Leading Role for the European Union: Cooperation with Regional Organisations' organised by the Madariaga European Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy in partnership with the Portuguese Presidency was held in Brussels on 22 November 2007.

XII. Co-operation with Non-Governmental Organisations

99. To enhance the dialogue between NGOs and the members of Council preparatory bodies, the Presidency regularly invited **NGO representatives** to give **briefings to members of the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management** in accordance with the Recommendations for Enhancing Co-operation with NGOs and CSOs. Representatives from a variety of international NGOs (such as the International Centre for Transitional Justice, Saferworld, Interpeace, and Nonviolent Peaceforce) presented briefings on Afghanistan, Kosovo, Guinea-Bissau and Civilian Peacekeeping. Particular care was taken to ensure that NGO input would be given during the early stages of the planning phase for civilian ESDP missions.

XIII. EU training relevant to ESDP 100

As part of the EU's annual training management cycle, a review of the training requirements relevant to ESDP has been conducted and will be agreed soon by the PSC. This document identifies the training needs in the diplomatic, civilian, police as well as military field in particular at strategic and at operational levels. It also identifies specific training requirements related to civil-military and inter-pillar co-ordination and in the context of EU's relations with third states and international organisations.

101. Based on this, the EU Training Programme in the field of ESDP for the years 2008 to 2010 is being prepared including the training activities offered by the Member States, the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the European Police College (CEPOL), the European Diplomatic Programme (EDP) and the European Community.

102. As regards **training for civilian crisis management**, the Council Secretariat and EUPT Kosovo continued preparatory work for training activities with a view to a possible ESDP mission in Kosovo. In order to assist EU Member States, a Training Conference was organised on 10-11 October 2007 in Pristina for training providers of EU Member States and also third States. It focused on co-ordination of pre-mission training activities and ensuring the link between the pre-deployment training and the in-mission induction training.

It should be noted that an overall assessment of the training needs for the personnel to be deployed under the possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo was financed by the European Community. From 22 to 24 October 2007, identified senior key personnel for the possible ESDP mission in Kosovo attended a training session in Brussels.

103. The **European Security and Defence College (ESDC)** started its third academic year with the conduct of the ESDP High Level Course 2007/2008 aiming at promoting a common understanding of ESDP as an essential part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. 70 civilian and military senior officials from Member States and EU Institutions dealing with

strategic aspects in the field of ESDP participate in this course. Course modules (each one week) took place in Brussels, Lisbon and Prague/Brno and two other modules will take place in March and April next year in Tartu (Baltic Defence College) and Ljubljana.

104. Two ESDP Orientation Courses have been conducted successfully in Brussels. One took place in September hosted by Romania. Apart from Member States and EU Institutions, nationals of candidate states, third states as well as representatives of international organisations were also invited to participate in this course. A second course took place in November co-organised by Cyprus, France, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and supported by Italy. This course had a particular focus on security in the Mediterranean area. Countries participating in the Barcelona Process and from the Western Balkans participated.

105. A first official ESDP Course for Press and Public Information Staff was successfully conducted as a two-day course in November, hosted by Ireland, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of ESDP among national spokespersons/PIOs from different ministries and potential spokespersons/PIOs for ESDP missions and operations.

106. A report of the ESDC Steering Committee on the activities and perspectives of the College is being prepared to be forwarded to the Council before the end of 2007 with a view to a revision of the 'Council Joint Action establishing the European Security and Defence College'.

107. A website has been developed to provide a central source of information on the activities of the ESDC. In addition, this website will serve, inter alia, as a platform for exchanging information on ESDC courses and other ESDP related courses. The ESDC website will be accessible via a link on the official EU Council website (www.consilium.europa.eu). It is expected to be available to the public by mid December 2007.

108. The European **Community project on training for civilian aspects of crisis management** ended in June 2007. The European Commission is currently undertaking the necessary steps to ensure appropriate follow-up activities in 2007/2008.

XIV. Exercises

109. Preparatory work was undertaken, including the Initial Planning and the Main Planning meetings held on 2 July and 17 to 20 December respectively, for the EU crisis management exercise to be held in 2008 (CME 08). This will be the first time that the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability will be participating in an exercise. This activity will provide a good opportunity to exercise and evaluate a range of EU crisis management structures, procedures and consultations arrangements in the context of an EU crisis management operation without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities, with a view to improving the EU capacity, including the EU decision-making process, to manage crises with civilian and military instruments, including their co-ordination within the EU. The OHQ for this exercise will be at Mont Valérien and will be provided by France.

110. The Council welcomed the successful conduct of the EU Military Exercise 2007 (MILEX 07). This second EU military exercise took place from 7 to 15 June 2007 and focused mainly on the interaction between the EU Operations Centre in Brussels and the EU Force Headquarters in Enköping, provided by Sweden. The EU operations centre was successfully activated during this exercise. Initial lessons identified were included in the Final Exercise Report.

111. Preparatory work was undertaken for the EU Military Exercise to be held in 2008 (MILEX 08), focusing on military aspects of crisis management at the military strategic and operational

level for an envisaged EU-led crisis management operation without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities. The OHQ for this exercise will be at Rome, and will be provided by Italy, while Spain will offer the FHQ.

XV. ESDP and Africa, including ESDP support to strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

112. With the aim of full operationalisation of various components within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including the African Stand-By Force (ASF), and following the adoption in May 2007 by the Council of an Action Plan with proposals for the implementation of the EU Concept for Strengthening African Capabilities, the PSC approved in July 2007 the general objectives set out in the proposal **EURO RECAMP** and requested France, as framework nation, to start its implementation in close consultation with the African partners.

113. A first round of discussions was held with the African Union in Addis Abeba. The focus was on participation by the African partners in the implementation of the EU Action Plan, in particular in the EURO RECAMP cycle, and on support by the EU to the African Centres of Excellence.

114. In October, a second round of discussions with the African Union, which was held in close coordination with the United Nations and the Regional Economic Organisations, led to the decision in principle by the AU to include the EURO RECAMP cycle, as a key element, in the ASF Training Plan for the next two years, along with other national programmes that may be offered in Africa and in Europe by EU Member States, in support of the development of the ASF.

115. The Joint EU/Africa Strategy as well as its Action Plan were adopted in Lisbon in December 2007 during the EU/Africa Summit, establishing a new approach of political partnership between equals and ways of jointly addressing global challenges that affect both continents. They included sections on peace and security.

116. In this context, at the joint initiative of the Presidency and the ISS, a 'High-Level Conference on ESDP, Crisis Prevention and Conflict Resolution in Africa' was held in Lisbon on 23 October, which produced some recommendations. The requirement for a better definition of specific capacities that need to be developed at the level of the African Peace and Security Architecture was stressed, as was the fact that this should be done both at the political, operational and managerial levels, with an emphasis on the latter. The consideration of a quadrilateral partnership among AU, UN, SRO's and EU, in order to provide a comprehensive 'wider picture', was also recommended.

117. Also in the same context, the Presidency held in Lisbon, on the 13th and 14th of September, an informal meeting of Security Policy Directors of the Member States Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which focused on the analysis of ESDP aspects of the EU-Africa relationship, including the strengthening of African capabilities in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

XVI. Co-operation with International Organisations, Mediterranean Partners and Third States

EU-NATO

118. The EU and NATO have continued to further develop their **strategic partnership in cri-**

sis management. Aspects of EU-NATO co-operation and the need for a pragmatic approach were also discussed by the Ministers on 19 November, particularly regarding in-theatre cooperation in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

119. Regarding operation ALTHEA, EU-NATO co-operation in the context of the 'Berlin Plus' arrangements has continued to work smoothly and efficiently both in Brussels and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, EU and NATO have continued to co-operate, including through a joint airlift co-ordination cell in Addis Abeba, to ensure effective support for the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS). As for the continued dialogue between EU and NATO, PSC-NAC have exchanged information on Operation ALTHEA; other meetings have also taken place between the SG/HR and the NATO SG as well as between EU and NATO staffs.

120. Co-operation has been facilitated through the permanent EU Cell at SHAPE and the NATO permanent liaison team at the EU Military Staff.

121. Concerning military capability development, the EU-NATO Capability Group continued to provide a forum for exchanging information on the development of military capabilities in the EU and NATO where requirements overlap. All Member States were informed of these issues. At the initiative of the Presidency, the PSC concluded work on finding ways to improve the modalities of functioning of the Capability Group, while noting that the participation of all EU Member States to the Group would further facilitate the exchange of information between the two organisations in the domain of military capabilities.

EU-UN

122. EU-UN co-operation continues to be an important component of ESDP. In June 2007 the EU and UN agreed a Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management, which builds on the 2003 Joint UN-EU Declaration, and which is being progressively implemented. High-level dialogue has continued, and there are regular exchanges at technical level. In the first of what will become an annual event, EU-UN education days, EU-UN experts briefed each other on their respective crisis management planning structures and processes.

123. At the operational level, close co-operation between the EU and the UN has continued, in particular regarding: support to the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the ongoing implementation of the UN support package to AMIS and transition to a hybrid mission (UNAMID); EUFOR Tchad/RCA; the DRC, where EUSEC/RDC and EUPOL/RDC co-operate with MONUC; and Kosovo, where a possible ESDP civilian mission is intended to take over a number of the tasks currently performed by UNMIK.

124. Following a mandate by PSC, the Council Secretariat presented a paper, prepared in collaboration with the European Commission, for the implementation of the Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management. The paper includes a number of concrete proposals to put in practice the Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management, *inter alia* in the fields of reinforced dialogue, SSR, African peace-keeping capabilities, the multidimensional aspects of peace-keeping, exchanges between the UN and the EU Situation Centres/Crisis Rooms, and co-operation with the EU Satellite Centre and the EC Joint Research Centre.

125. The EU also strengthened its co-operation with the UN on crisis management, building in particular on experience gained so far and, in this context, welcomed recent high-level visits and dialogue of UN senior officials with the PSC, CivCom and PMG.

EU-AU

126. Cooperation with African partners in the framework of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership continued to be pursued including on security aspects. In this context, the EU-Africa Summit took place in Lisbon on 8 and 9 December.

127. The setting-up of a EU delegation to the African Union in Addis Abeba will be an important step to support the EU-AU partnership, including on strengthening the AU's crisis management capabilities, as well as the EU's comprehensive policy objectives in relation with the AU.

EU-OSCE

128. The Portuguese EU Presidency supported actively the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship's efforts to collaborate on various regional issues, such as the Balkans, the Republic of Moldova and the Southern Caucasus. Staff-to-staff discussions and regular information exchanges have continued with regard to Kosovo. On 3 October the PSC Troika EU-OSCE met to have an exchange of views on these issues. The EU participated in several OSCE-sponsored events, such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw from 24 September – 5 October 2007.

129. Preparations for the EU – OSCE Ministerial Troika on 19 November 2007 in Brussels included discussion on the draft declaration on EU-OSCE cooperation ahead of the annual OSCE Ministerial meeting (29-30 November 2007, Madrid).

Mediterranean Partners

130. Dialogue between the EU and Mediterranean Partners continued to be pursued with a view to strengthening co-operation in the field of security and defence. The Euro-Mediterranean Senior Officials Meeting devoted to ESDP took place on 26 November. Information meetings also continued to be organised by the Secretariat for the benefit of Mediterranean Partners, including on EU exercises, operations and EU-UN co-operation. Some Mediterranean Partners continued to participate in ESDP-Operations. Under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College, a special edition of the ESDP Orientation Course with a specific focus on ESDP and security in the Mediterranean area (Barcelona process' new challenges, instability and threats to security in the Mediterranean area, transnational communities and security in the Mediterranean area) was co-organised by Cyprus, France, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, with the support of Italy, in Brussels from 5 to 9 November, *inter alia*, involving participants from Mediterranean partners.

131. Ministers of Defence at their informal meeting in Évora on 28-29 September discussed the cooperation with Mediterranean partners on ESDP in a joint session with Ministers of Defence from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and were briefed on the multilateral co-operation in the framework of the 'Initiative 5+5', which brings together the Maghreb countries and five EU Mediterranean countries.

Third States

132. The EU continued the close co-operation in ESDP crisis management with non-EU European NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Canada,

Russia, Ukraine and other third states. Participants from the third states, including from Canada, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Japan, Russia and Turkey attended the ESDP Orientation Course on 24-28 September. Participants from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia attended the ESDP Orientation Course on 5-9 November focusing on ESDP and security in the Mediterranean area. 133. Several Third states continued to contribute to ESDP military operation EUFOR Althea in BiH (Albania, Chile, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey). Non-EU European NATO Members, countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Switzerland, Albania and Ukraine were invited to the Force Generation process for the upcoming operation EUFOR Tchad/CAR. At this stage, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey declared that they considered positively their potential contributions.

134. Third states have continued to provide valuable contributions the ESDP civilian missions EUPM (Canada, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine) and EU support to AMIS II (Canada). A number of third countries have already accepted the invitation to participate in EUPOL Afghanistan (Canada, Croatia, Norway and New Zealand), while others have indicated their willingness to do so in the future. The EU envisages to invite several third states to participate to the possible ESDP mission in Kosovo.

a) Russia

135. In the framework of the Road Map for the Common Space on External Security, the dialogue with Russia on co-operation in crisis management was continued. On 8 November a session of expert talks took place between the Council Secretariat and the Russian Ministry of Defence, to share lessons learned from recent operations/exercises and discuss practical aspects of possible areas of EU-Russia cooperation in crisis management.

b) Ukraine

136. The EU and Ukraine continued building a close relationship and enhancing co-operation in foreign and security policy, including in crisis management, which was also stressed at their Summit on 14 September 2007. Good contacts were pursued between the Ukrainian Chief of Defence and the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, who visited Kiev on 10-12 October. On 15 November, the Ukrainian Chief of Defence met, at an informal session, with the EU Military Committee at the level of Chiefs of Defence. A list of proposed activities in the field of ESDP between the EU and Ukraine has been established for the year 2008. Cooperation in crisis management was also discussed in the first five rounds of negotiation of the new Enhanced Agreement.

c) United States of America

137. The close dialogue and cooperation with the US in the context of ESDP crisis management continued and was enhanced. Building on the EU and US joint assessment on crisis management in the April 2007 EU/US Summit Declaration, a Draft Work Plan EU-US Technical Dialogue and Increased Cooperation in Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention was approved in December.

138. Furthermore, the US have indicated their intention to participate in the possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo.

XIX. Mandate for the Incoming Presidency

139. On the basis of the present report and taking into account the European Security Strategy, the incoming Presidency, assisted by the Secretary General/High Representative and in association with the Commission, is invited to continue work on developing the European Security and Defence Policy, and in particular:

- ▶ To prepare and ensure effective implementation of decisions related to present and future operations and missions, both civilian and military.
- ▶ To work on the new Civilian Headline Goal 2010, and start implementing its objectives, taking into account the ministerial declaration of the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference in November 2007.
- ▶ To continue work on further improving the effectiveness of civilian crisis management in particular with respect to mission support, notably procurement and (rapid) financing.
- ▶ To establish an architecture for evaluation, lessons learned and best practices of civilian ESDP operations.
- ▶ To support and foster continued implementation of the new Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for the EU Civilian Crisis Management Operations, including the watch-keeping capability.
- ▶ To continue work on the development of military capabilities in the framework of the Headline Goal 2010, focusing on recommendations from the Progress Catalogue 07 in conjunction with the Capability Development Plan.
- ▶ Based on the Tri-Presidency paper, continue the work on a possible revision of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept.
- ▶ On the basis of the report and recommendations by Secretary General/High Representative which were adopted by the GAERC in November 2007, foster work on implementing the recommendations addressing shortcomings in the EUMS's ability to conduct planning for EU led operations at the strategic level.
- ▶ Related to the civil-military coordination (CMCO), to continue work on the establishment of information Exchange Requirements (IER). These will, inter alia, provide a useful input to the development of an EU Network Enabled Capability concept.
- ▶ To support the European Defence Agency (EDA) in its work, in particular with regard to the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).
- ▶ To continue implementing the EU exercise programme, including taking forward the work on the planning of the Crisis Management Exercise CME 08 and conducting MILEX 08.
- ▶ 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 also taking into account national activities as well as the Community instruments.
- ▶ To take further the work on the ESDP contribution to Security Sector Reform (SSR), Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), as well as on security and development.
- ▶ 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

coordination, including on the security of the EU missions, where the two organizations are already or planning to be engaged in the same theatre (Kosovo and Afghanistan) and to ensure mutually reinforcing military capabilities development where requirements overlap.

- ▶ To continue the EU engagement in the Western Balkans through ongoing and future activities and to continue the dialogue with Mediterranean countries participating in the Barcelona process.
- ▶ On the basis of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy and First Action Plan (2008-2010) to be adopted at the Africa – EU Summit, as well as the Action Plan adopted by the Council in May 2007, continue strengthening the strategic partnership between EU and Africa in the area of African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. Further assist in development of the African Standby Force, including by EURO RECAMP.
- ▶ To continue close dialogue and co-operation with other key partners.
- ▶ To enhance dialogue and exchange of information with NGOs and civil society, and conduct the review of ‘Recommendations for Enhancing Co-operation with NGOs and Civil Society in the framework of EU Civilian Crisis management and Conflict Prevention’.
- ▶ To continue promoting the implementation of relevant human rights related provisions in the context of the ESDP crisis management activities, as well as UNSCR 1325 and 1612. Special attention will be given to the relevant EU documents in the field of Children and Armed conflicts.
- ▶ To continue and enhance the implementation of the European Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts and prepare the annual presidency report on Conflict prevention for approval by the European Council in June 2008.
- ▶ To develop further, based on existing framework and discussions so far, the ESDP information campaign with the aim to raise the profile of the ESDP activities.

Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement

Paris, 17 December 2007

The Quartet Principals – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado, and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner – met today in Paris to discuss the situation in the Middle East. They were joined by Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

The Quartet lauded the success of the November 27 Annapolis Conference, which resulted in agreement to launch bilateral Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty and demonstrated broad regional and international support for Israeli-Palestinian and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. The Quartet welcomed the commencement of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to resolve all outstanding issues, including all core issues, and looked forward to vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations. The Quartet reaffirmed its commitment to remain closely involved and to support the parties' efforts in the period ahead as they make every effort to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008.

The Quartet reaffirmed the importance of Palestinian economic and institutional capacity building in order to lay the foundation for a viable and prosperous Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. In that regard, the Quartet expressed its strong support for the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan presented by Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Fayyad, welcomed the generous support of the international community at the Paris Donors' Conference, and urged donors to maximize the resources available to the PA. The Quartet underlined that the success of this plan depends on the cooperation of all partners: the PA, donors and Israel. In this context, it stressed the importance of improved movement and access. The Quartet commended the excellent work of the European Commission and World Bank in establishing and managing the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) since June 2006. Now, with the establishment of a responsible PA government committed to peace, the re-establishment of a functioning PA single treasury account, and in light of the excellent Palestinian Reform and Development Plan presented to donors in Paris, the Quartet urged donors to resume direct bilateral assistance to the PA. Principals endorsed a final extension of the TIM until the end of March 2008 to allow sufficient time for donors to make this transition.

Quartet Principals noted the continuing importance of improving conditions on the ground and creating an environment conducive to the realization of Israeli-Palestinian peace, and the establishment of a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel in peace and security. In this regard, the Quartet expressed concern over the announcement of new housing tenders for Har Homa/Jabal abu Ghneim. Principals called for all sides to refrain from steps that undermine confidence, and underscored the importance of avoiding any actions that could prejudice the outcome of permanent status negotiations. The Quartet called on both parties to make progress on their Phase One Roadmap obligations, including an Israeli freeze on settlements, removal of unauthorized outposts, and opening of East Jerusalem institutions, and Palestinian steps to end violence, terrorism, and incitement.

The Quartet condemned the continued rocket fire from Gaza into Israel and called for an immediate cessation of such attacks.

The Quartet gave its strong support to the projects developed by Quartet Representative Blair and commended the constructive support of the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority for their implementation.

The Quartet reiterated its deep concern over the humanitarian conditions facing the population of the Gaza Strip and emphasized the importance of continued emergency and humanitarian assistance without obstruction. The Quartet called for the continued provision of essential services, including fuel and power supplies. It expressed its urgent concern over the continued closure of major crossing points given the impact on the Palestinian economy and daily life. The Quartet encouraged contacts between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to consider ideas such as Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's proposal for the PA to assume responsibility for the Palestinian side of the Gaza crossings in order to improve operations and oversight for the passage of goods and people.

Recognizing the crucial role that Arab states must play in support of the peace process, and the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet commended the broad and constructive Arab participation at Annapolis and called for their political and financial support for the Palestinian Authority government and institutions. Principals looked forward to their meeting with Arab foreign ministers, to be hosted by the Portuguese Foreign Minister, which would present an opportunity to discuss the way ahead.

The Quartet agreed to meet regularly in 2008, to review progress and provide support for the parties' efforts. Envoys will meet to follow up and discuss how best to harness international support for progress towards peace.

The Quartet reaffirmed its commitment to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on UNSCRs 242 and 338.

EUPOL RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 20 December 2007

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2008/38/CFSP 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⁾ for an initial duration of one year. The mission was launched on 1 July 2007.
- (2) On 18 June 2007, the Council approved Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management. Those Guidelines provide, inter alia, that a Civilian Operation Commander will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP (SG/HR). Those Guidelines further provide that the Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) established within the Council Secretariat will, for each civilian crisis management operation, be the Civilian Operation Commander.
- (3) The abovementioned Command and Control Structure is without prejudice to the contractual responsibility of the Head of Mission to the Commission for implementation of the Mission's budget.
- (4) The Watch-Keeping Capability established within the Council Secretariat should be activated for this Mission.
- (5) 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. the following Article 3a shall be inserted:

'Article 3a

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Director shall be the Civilian

(1) OJ L 151, 13.6.2007, p. 46.

Operation Commander for EUPOL RD Congo.

2. The Civilian Operation Commander shall exercise command and control of EUPOL RD Congo at the strategic level under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the overall authority of the SG/HR.
3. The Civilian Operation Commander shall ensure proper and effective implementation of the Council's decisions and the PSC's decisions, in particular 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 (OPCON) 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.
6. The Civilian Operation Commander and the EUSR shall consult each other as required.;

2. paragraphs 2 to 8 of Article 5 shall be replaced by the following:

- ‘2. The Head of Mission shall assume responsibility and exercise command and control of the mission at theatre level.
3. 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 over assets, resources and information put at the disposal of the mission.
4. The Head of Mission shall issue instructions to all mission staff for the effective conduct of EUPOL RD Congo in theatre, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, in accordance with the Civilian Operation Commander's instructions at strategic level.
5. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the implementation of the Mission's budget. For that purpose the Head of Mission shall sign a contract with the Commission.
6. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for disciplinary control over staff. In the case of seconded staff, disciplinary action shall be exercised by the national or EU authority concerned.
7. The Head of Mission shall represent EUPOL RD Congo in the operations area and shall ensure appropriate visibility of the Mission.
8. The Head of Mission shall coordinate with other EU actors on the ground as appropriate. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of Mission shall receive local political guidance from the EUSR.;

3. paragraph 3 of Article 6 shall be replaced by the following:

- ‘3. 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 (*).

4. Article 7 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 7

Chain of Command

1. EUPOL RD Congo shall have a unified chain of command as a crisis management operation.

(*) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1. Decision as amended by Decision 2007/438/EC (OJ L 164, 26.6.2007, p. 24).’

2. Under the responsibility of the Council, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) shall exercise political control and strategic direction of EUPOL RD Congo.
3. Under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR the Civilian Operation Commander shall be the commander of EUPOL RD Congo 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 EUPOL RD Congo at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.’;

5. Article 8 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 8

Political control and strategic direction

1. Under the responsibility of the Council, the PSC shall exercise political control and strategic direction of the mission. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions for that purpose in accordance with Article 25 of the Treaty on European Union. This authorization shall include the power to amend the OPLAN. It shall also include powers to take subsequent 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.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. The PSC shall receive reports by the Civilian Operation Commander and the Head of Mission on a regular basis and as required on issues within their areas of responsibility.’;

6. Article 14 shall be replaced by the following:

‘Article 14

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 EUPOL RD Congo in accordance with Articles 3a and 7 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 European Union in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty on European Union and its supporting instruments.
3. The Head of Mission shall be assisted by a Mission Security Officer (MSO), who shall report to the Head of Mission and also maintain a close functional relationship with the Council Security Office.
4. EUPOL RD Congo staff shall undergo mandatory security training before their entry into function, in accordance with the OPLAN. They shall also receive regular in theatre refresher training organised by the MSO.’;

7. the following Article shall be inserted:

‘Article 14a

Watch-Keeping

The Watch-Keeping Capability shall be activated for EUPOL RD Congo.’;

8. the following paragraph shall be added to Article 17:

‘The Decisions of the PSC pursuant to Article 8(1), regarding the appointment of the Head of Mission, shall also be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.’

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 December 2007.

For the Council

The President

F. Nunes Correia

Core documents

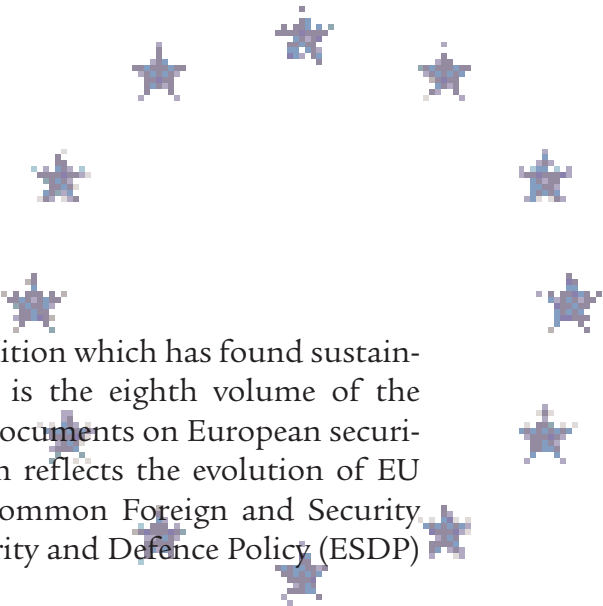
All *Chaillot Papers*
can be accessed via the Institute's website :
www.iss.europa.eu

Chaillot Papers

- n° 111 **Bush's legacy and America's next foreign policy** **September 2008**
Marcin Zaborowski
- n° 110 **Rethinking Iran: From confrontation to cooperation** **August 2008**
Christoph Bertram
- n° 109 **Partnerships for effective multilateralism**
EU relations with Brazil, China, India and Russia **May 2008**
Ummu Salma Bava, Feng Zhongping, Sabine Fischer, Marco Aurélio Garcia, François Godement, Giovanni Grevi, Dmitri Trenin, Alfredo Valladão, Álvaro de Vasconcelos and Christian Wagner; Edited by Giovanni Grevi and Álvaro de Vasconcelos
- n° 108 **Ukraine: Quo Vadis?** **February 2008**
Sabine Fischer, Rosaria Puglisi, Katarzyna Wolczuk and Pawel Wolowski; edited by Sabine Fischer
- n° 107 **Is there an Albanian question?** **January 2008**
Judy Batt, Misha Glenny, Denisa Kostovicova, Nicola Mai, Nadège Ragaru, Fabian Schmidt and Miranda Vickers; edited by Judy Batt
- n° 106 **Pioneering foreign policy: The EU Special Representatives** **October 2007**
Giovanni Grevi
- n° 105 **Seeing blue: American visions of the European Union** **September 2007**
Esther Brimmer
- n° 104 **Regional Cooperation in the Western Balkans** **July 2007**
Milica Delevic
- n° 103 **Transformational diplomacy** **June 2007**
Justin Vaïsse

Books

- The New Global Puzzle. What World for the EU in 2025?** **2006**
directed by Nicole Gnesotto and Giovanni Grevi
- Friends again? EU-US relations after the crisis** **2006**
Nicole Gnesotto, James Dobbins, Federico Romero, David Frum, William Wallace, Ronald D. Asmus, István Gyarmati, Walter B. Slocombe, Gilles Andréani, Philip H. Gordon, Werner Weidenfeld, Felix Neugart, Geoffrey Kemp, Dov Lynch, Fiona Hill, Baudoin Bollaert, Joseph Quinlan, Marcin Zaborowski; edited by Marcin Zaborowski
- Defence procurement in the European Union – The current debate** **2005**
Report of an EUISS Task Force
Chairman and Rapporteur: Burkard Schmitt



Continuing a well-established tradition which has found sustained favour with our readers, this is the eighth volume of the annual EUISS collection of Core documents on European security and defence. This compendium reflects the evolution of EU policy making in the realm of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) in 2007.

The year 2007 was dominated on every front, foreign and security affairs being no exception, by the agreement on the Reform Treaty secured in Berlin in June, and then the laborious drafting period that followed and led to its signing by the leaders of the EU Member States in Lisbon on 13 December. The institutional reforms contemplated in the Lisbon Treaty crucially impact on CFSP/ESDP, as they demand greater coherence between the various components of EU external action, with a view to forging a holistic and hence more effective external action/foreign policy.

The mechanisms and instruments providing for the stronger kind of EU involvement we have more recently witnessed in seeking to meet political and security challenges, whether they arise in the EU's own neighbourhood or in more geographically distant regions, are now established. This is an urgent necessity, especially when we consider the evolution of ESDP throughout 2007 and well into the current year, or even the commitments of many EU Member States in military operations, be it in the context of the peacekeeping mission in Lebanon or the war in Afghanistan.

published by
the European Union
Institute for Security Studies
43 avenue du
Président Wilson
F-75775 Paris cedex 16
phone: +33 (0) 1 56 89 19 30
fax: +33 (0) 1 56 89 19 31
e-mail: info@iss.europa.eu

www.iss.europa.eu

€ 15

ISSN 1017-7566
ISBN 978-92-9198-130-4
QN-AA-08-112-EN-C