EU in the World Update


On 23 May, EU foreign ministers discussed the situation in the EU’s Southern Neighbourhood and adopted conclusions on Syria, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen and the Middle East Peace Process. They also discussed the situation in Sudan and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had an exchange of views on the current situation in the Southern Caucasus and a possible EU role in the region. Finally, they took note of the third implementation report of the EU Action Plan for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Also on 23 May, EU defence ministers discussed and adopted conclusions on military aspects of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) (see below).

On 24 May, EU development ministers discussed the joint programming of development aid for South Sudan and decided to allocate € 200 million to support South Sudan’s state- and capacity building and its development needs. They also adopted and discussed the first annual FAC report to the European Council on EU development aid targets, and debated the development policy aspects of water in response to the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU’s initiative on water.

The General Affairs Council (GAC) met on 23 May in Brussels. Ministers discussed the draft agenda for the June meeting of the European Council and held an exchange of views on how to approach the final stage of negotiations with Croatia on its accession to the EU.

Click here to download the FAC conclusions and here to download the GAC conclusions.

High Representative (HR): During the FAC meeting on 23 May, HR Ashton led a discussion with ministers on co-operation between Member State embassies and EU delegations, on co-operation between the HR and ministers, and on the preparation and conduct of FAC meetings.

European External Action Service (EEAS): On 30 May, HR Ashton announced her intention to transfer Peter Sørensen to the post of EU Head of Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr Sørensen (Denmark) is currently Head of the EU Delegation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

For more information about the EEAS, please contact Josephine Liebl.

CSDP missions: The EU Military Committee (EUMC) met on 3 May in Brussels. EU chiefs of defence discussed capabilities, in particular the pooling and sharing initiative, and military operations. They were also briefed by the operation commanders of the ongoing military CSDP missions.

On 11 May, the European Parliament held a debate with HR Ashton on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the CSDP, and adopted two related reports (see below).

On 23 May, EU defence ministers reviewed developments in the CSDP and took stock of progress in following up on the December 2010 and January 2011 Council conclusions. They also discussed the state-of-play regarding the EU’s military CSDP operations and considered the way forward. Finally, they adopted conclusions on pooling and sharing military capabilities.

And finally, on 26 May, the Council of the EU adopted a decision extending the mandate of the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point between Egypt and Gaza (EUBAM Rafah) until 31 December 2011.

Click here to watch the European Parliament debate on 11 May. here to download the press release from the EUMC meeting, here to download the FAC conclusions from 23 May, here to download the press release about EUBAM Rafah and here to download the latest issue of EU Security and Defence News.

European Union special representatives (EUSRs): On 6 May, HR Ashton welcomed the Council decision to appoint Fernando Gentilini (Italy) as temporary EUSR in Kosovo until 31 July 2011. Mr Gentilini, a career diplomat, will serve as EUSR until a permanent EUSR, who will also be Head of the EC Liaison Office to Kosovo, is chosen.

Click here to download the EU press release.

European Commission (EC): On 8 May, the EC and HR Ashton published a joint communication entitled ‘A new response to a changing neighbourhood’. According to the Communication, the ‘new approach’ aims to: provide greater support to partners engaged in building deep democracy, support inclusive economic development, and strengthen the two regional dimensions of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Click here to download the new communication. For more information, please contact Josephine Liebl.

European Parliament: The European Parliament had a plenary session on 9-12 May in Strasbourg. Members adopted resolutions on Azerbaijan, the situation in Sri Lanka, the cultural dimensions of the EU’s external actions, the annual report on the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP in 2009, the development of the CSDP following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, and on the EU’s role in multilateral organisations (see ‘EU Documents’ on p. 4).

For more information about events in the European Parliament, please contact Ben Moore.
EU Documents

High Representative (HR) / President of the European Council / Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

31 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the transfer of Ratko Mladić to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague
31 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the situation in Yemen
27 May – Joint Statement by the European Council President and the European Commission President at the G8 Summit in Deauville
27 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the adoption of a general amnesty in Armenia
26 May – Statement by HR Ashton on Belarus
26 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the situation in Yemen
24 May – Joint Statement by HR Ashton and Commissioner Füle on Albania
24 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the situation in Sudan
22 May – Remarks by HR Ashton at the opening of the EU Office in Benghazi
20 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the situation in Azerbaijan
20 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by Grenada
19 May – Statement by HR Ashton regarding certain aspects of the municipal elections in Albania
18 May – Declaration by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the unfolding situation in Syria
18 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the Report of the UN Secretary-General Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka
9 May – Declaration by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on restrictive measures against Syria
5 May – Statement by HR Ashton regarding the publication of the report of the independent international commission of inquiry into the events in Southern Kyrgyzstan in 2010
5 May – Statement by HR Ashton after the meeting of the Contact Group on Libya
4 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the conduct, process and outcome of the general elections in Nigeria held during April 2011
3 May – Statement by HR Ashton on the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on the EU’s participation in the work of the UN
29 April – Declaration by HR Ashton on behalf of the EU on the reported use of cluster munitions in Libya
28 April – Statement by HR Ashton on the agreement to form a Palestinian interim government
28 April – Statement by the spokesperson on HR Ashton on Foreign Minister Lavrov’s visit to Abkhazia and South Ossetia on 25-26 April 2011
27 April – Statement by HR Ashton on the report of the UN Secretary-General Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka
27 April – Statement by HR Ashton on the political agreement by the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative for peaceful transition in Yemen
23 April – Statement by HR Ashton on violent repressions in Syria
21 April – Statement by HR Ashton following the announcement of the final results of the second round of elections in Haiti

Council

28 May – Joint Press Statement: 20th EU-Japan Summit
23 May – Press Statement: Conclusions of the 35th meeting of the EEA Council
5 May – EU Press Release: 13th meeting of the EU-Republic of Moldova Cooperation Council
20 April – Joint Communiqué: 21st EU-Gulf Cooperation Council Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting
19 April – Press Release: 40th EU-Turkey Association Council
19 April – Press Release: 12th meeting of the Accession Conference at Ministerial level with Croatia
19 April – Joint Press Release: Seventh meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between the EU and Croatia

Commission

8 May – Joint communication: A new response to a changing neighbourhood
19 April – Communication: Enhancing EU accountability on financing for development towards the EU Official Development Assistance Peer Review

Parliament

12 May – Resolution on Azerbaijan
12 May – Resolution on the situation in Sri Lanka
12 May – Resolution on the cultural dimensions of the EU’s external actions
11 May – Resolution on the annual report on the main aspects and basic choices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in 2009
11 May – Resolution on the development of the common security and defence policy following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty
11 May – Resolution on the EU as a global actor: its role in multilateral organisations

EU Agenda

Council of the EU: The next meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) and the General Affairs Council (GAC) will take place on 20 June in Brussels. The following Council committees and working parties will also meet in June and July:

- Political and Security Committee: 1, 7, 10, 14, 15, 21 and 28 June; and 1, 5, 12, 13, 19, 22, 26 and 29 July
- Committee for the Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management: 1, 6, 15, 17 and 28 June
- Working Party on Development Co-operation: 6, 9, 16 and 27 June; and 4, 7 and 11 July
- Africa Working Party: 1, 8, 10 and 15 June
- Working Party on Human Rights: 7 and 8 June

European Parliament: The next European Parliament plenary sessions will take place 6-9 June in Strasbourg and 22-23 June in Brussels. The following European parliamentary (sub-)committees will also meet in June and July:

- Foreign Affairs: 6, 8, 15-16 and 21 June; and 12-13 July
- Development: 14-15 June and 12-13 July
- Security and Defence: 14-15 and 30 June; and 12 July
- Human Rights: 14-15 and 30 June; and 11-12 July
- Women’s Rights and Gender Equality: 14-15 June and 13-14 July
- Budgets: 14-16 and 27 June; and 12-13 July
- Policy Challenges and Budgetary Resources: 20 June

For more information about meetings in the EU institutions, please visit the EU Events section of the EPLO website.
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EU’S SUPPORT FOR SECURITY SECTOR REFORM (SSR) IN GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

On 16 May 2011, EPLO organised a meeting in the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) project on the EU’s support for SSR. The aim of the meeting, which was supported by the Folke Bernadotte Academy, was to identify lessons learned from the EU’s support to SSR in Guinea-Bissau and the DRC. The following recommendations were made by participants:

A Strategic EU Approach to SSR
- The EU should identify its niche in supporting SSR in relation to other interventions by the international community. It should engage only in value-based reform not just assistance, or it risks ‘losing its soul.’ ‘The presence of other actors – particularly China in Africa – should not lead to a ‘race to the bottom’.
- EU SSR support is currently treated as more technical than political. The political side should be strengthened so that SSR support contributes directly to ‘deep democracy’ as defined by High Representative Ashton and is closely linked to a democratisation agenda.
- It is unclear how the European Commission (EC) will engage in SSR after 1 June; civil society and the European Parliament (EP) should press for continued close engagement of development aid in SSR.

Political dialogue
- Political dialogue should be integrated into SSR processes on the basis of Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement.
- Political dialogue could enable the EU to place more priority on outcomes (e.g. reducing criminality and human rights violations by security agents) rather than focusing on tangible outputs (e.g. building courtrooms, training etc.) and to link the political with the technical aspects of SSR.
- Through political dialogue, the EU and the partner country can develop joint benchmarks for progress and follow-up (e.g. implementation of laws passed in relation to SSR).
- Some participants felt that the EU should apply conditionality where state actors block reform.

Contextual Political Analysis
- The political analysis informing SSR projects must be significantly improved and include assessment of where power lies, formally and informally.
- In some contexts, Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions need to be part of a larger regional approach (e.g. tackling organised crime in Guinea-Bissau).

Coordination
- Good in-country coordination between donors and between the donors and the partner country is recognised as essential for SSR. The European External Action Service (EEAS) should take a lead role in ensuring EU-side coordination, and integrated missions should replace multiple interventions.
- Coordination mechanisms should be formalised and include the partner country.
- Improved coordination (as in the DRC) should lead to a shared political agenda by the EU institutions and Member States (MS), in-country and in Brussels.

Local ownership
- Local ownership of SSR projects in fragile situations presents significant challenges. In part these may be informed by better political analysis, engaging civil society in SSR and recognising the importance of addressing corruption and organised crime.

Short-term mandates; long-term engagement
- The EEAS can now take responsibility for developing a longer-term vision for EU intervention in a given context, identifying the right mix of tools and instruments.
- EU MS – who commit to deploy resources only in the short term and thus determine the short-term nature of CSDP mission mandates – should take a longer-term approach. Civil society has a key role to play in this and the EP should also be engaged.

Multiple instruments
- In the DRC, the two CSDP missions and the EC all work on SSR. Replacing multiple instruments with a single integrated mission would not only increase the ability of the EU to address the security sector more strategically and holistically, but would also level out imbalances in financing.

Personnel
- Good governance, human rights, civilian protection and conflict sensitivity should be included in job descriptions for all SSR staff.
- Civilian staff are often unable to work with military counterparts. In Mauritania, a Guardia civil officer was seconded to the delegation to support civilian project managers, to good effect. This model should be replicated elsewhere.
- When the SSR expert pool comes online, the EEAS should find a mechanism to include regional experts to strengthen it.

SSR Concept
- The EU should revise its concept of SSR to take into account the realities of non-Western (and potentially fragile) situations. This should include how to address non-state actors (e.g. militia groups) and how to connect with traditional governance structures providing justice and/or security.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)
- M&E for SSR is difficult and can be sensitive. EU SSR support urgently needs to integrate M&E into its programming, particularly the impact of SSR projects on people’s lives on the ground.
- M&E for SSR focusing on external impact should be built into programme design and management structures and should be flexible. It should measure expected and unexpected results.
- Training SSR staff in M&E would entrench it as a core skill; staff can be supported by experts when needed.

This document presents the key recommendations made by participants at the CSDN meeting on EU Support for Security Sector Reform: Learning from the EU CSDP Missions and other EU support in Guinea-Bissau and the DRC. It does not necessarily represent the views of the organisers.

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EPLO BLOG
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NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM EPLO’S MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Job Vacancies

Conciliation Resources
• **Fundraiser**, London (Deadline: 21 June 2011)

International Alert
• Senior Fundraising Officer, London (Deadline: 23 June 2011); **Programme Manager - West Africa**, London (Deadline: 26 June 2011); **Programme Manager - Peacebuilding**, London (Deadline: 26 June 2011)

International Center for Transitional Justice
• **Senior Development Officer**; **Deputy Director - MENA**; **Senior Finance Officer**, Brussels (Deadline: 30 June 2011)

International Crisis Group
• **Assistant Editor** (Deadline: 8 June 2011); **Chief Development Officer**, Brussels (Deadline: 27 June 2011); **Project Director - North Africa**, Moscow (Deadline: 3 June 2011); **Senior Analyst - China**, Beijing; **Senior Analyst - Libya**; **Senior Analyst - Tunisia**, Tunis

Interpeace
• **Programme Officer - West Africa**, Accra; **Senior Programme Officer - Democratization**, Nairobi

Life & Peace Institute
• **Researcher, Alternatives for Conflict Transformation in Somalia**, Nairobi (Deadline: 24 June 2011)

Nonviolent Peaceforce
• **Field team members**: **External Evaluator of Nonviolent Peaceforce’s Philippines Project** (Deadline: 12 June 2011)

Oxfam International
• **Approximately 125 vacancies in Oxfam affiliates**

Partners for Democratic Change International
• **Programme Development Officer**, Brussels (Deadline: 15 June 2011)

Peacebuild
• **Financial Administrator (Maternity Cover - 4 months)**, Nairobi (Deadline: 3 June 2011); **Project Coordinator - Sudan, Juba** (Deadline: 9 June 2011); **Programme Manager - Caucasus**, Tbilisi (Deadline: 10 June 2011)

Search for Common Ground

World Vision International
• **Approximately 40 vacancies**

News and Publications

Berghof Conflict Research: **Handbuch Frieden** (March 2011)

International Alert: **Practice note 7: Conflict-sensitive land policy and land governance in Africa** (April 2011)

International Center for Transitional Justice: **Derailed: Transitional Justice in Indonesia since the fall of Soeharto** (April 2011); Transitions (May 2011)

International Crisis Group: **Learning to Walk without a Crutch: The International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala - Latin America Report No. 36** (May 2011); CrisisWatch No. 94 (1 June 2011)


**Oxfam International**: *No Time to Lose: Promoting the Accountability of the Afghan National Security Forces* (May 2011)

Partners for Democratic Change International: **Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 1** (March 2011)

Pax Christi International: **Newsletter No. 209** (1 June 2011)

Quaker Council for European Affairs: **The Social Reintegration of Ex-Prisoners in Council of Europe Member States** (May 2011) Around Europe No. 331 (April 2011)

**Saferworld**: Preventing violence through building peaceful societies (May 2011); Southern Sudan Monitor (May 2011)

Search for Common Ground: **Common Ground News Service**

swisspeace: **International Assistance in Gaza: Aiding Fragmentation or Unity?** (April 2011); *KOFF Newsletter No. 98* (1 June 2011)

**Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax)**: An Inter-Religious Council for Jerusalem (April 2011)


Training Courses

Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution: **International Civilian Peacekeeping/Peacebuilding Training Programme Core Course** (10-23 July 2011, Stadtschlaining, Austria)

**Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation**: Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Peacemaking Certificate Course (8-13 August 2011, Glencree, Ireland)

**International Alert**: Reintegration of Ex-Combatants (19-26 June 2011, Landgraaf, The Netherlands)


Recent Publications

• Walk the Talk: The EU needs an effective early warning system to match its ambitions to prevent conflict and promote peace (February 2011)

• Climate Change, Conflict and Fragility: Understanding the linkages, shaping effective responses (November 2009)

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INITIATIVE FOR PEACEBUILDING - EARLY WARNING

The Initiative for Peacebuilding – Early Warning Analysis to Action (IP-EW) is a consortium led by International Alert and funded by the European Commission. It draws on the expertise of 10 members comprising civil society organizations, networks and universities and 3 associates with offices across the EU and in conflict-affected countries.

For more information about the Initiative for Peacebuilding, please contact Herta Eckert from International Alert or visit the website.
EPLO is the platform of European NGOs, networks of NGOs and think tanks active in the field of peacebuilding, who share an interest in promoting sustainable peacebuilding policies among decision-makers in the European Union.

EPLO aims to influence the EU so it promotes and implements measures that lead to sustainable peace between states and within states and peoples, and that transform and resolve conflicts non-violently.

EPLO wants the EU to recognise the crucial connection between peacebuilding, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development worldwide and the crucial role NGOs have to play in sustainable EU efforts for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and crisis management.

EPLO advances the interests of its members through common policy positions and consequently advocating for those common positions. EPLO disseminates information and promotes understanding of EU policies of concern to its members. The Office also builds solidarity and co-operation amongst its members and with other relevant NGO networks.

Finally, EPLO raises awareness about the contribution the EU should make to peacebuilding and the need to hold the EU accountable to its own political commitments of helping secure peace within and outside its borders.

EPLO welcomes membership applications from peacebuilding organisations. The next deadline for membership applications is Monday 3 October 2011.

Click here to download an application form.

For older EPLO publications, please visit the EPLO website.