



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



12354/09 (Presse 229)

PRESS RELEASE

2958th Council meeting

General Affairs and External Relations

External Relations

Brussels, 27 July 2009

President **Mr Carl BILDT**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

* Some external relations items were adopted without debate at the 2957th meeting on General Affairs (12353/09).

P R E S S

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12354/09 (Presse 229)

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Main results of the Council

*The Council decided to step up the EU engagement for promoting peace and development in **Somalia**, in line with High Representative Javier Solana's recommendations. Priority will be given to activities that produce quick, yet sustainable, results to promote peace and recovery for the Somali people. Capacity building of public institutions will be of particular importance in this context.*

*In the light of the achievements of the **EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM)**, in particular in the areas of stabilisation, normalisation, and confidence building, the Council also decided to extend the mandate of EUMM for another 12 months until 14 September 2010.*

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

- ¹
- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 - Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
 - Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Yves LETERME
Mr Olivier CHASTEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for European Affairs

Bulgaria:

Mr Boyko KOTZEV

Permanent Representative

Czech Republic:

Mr Jan KOHOUT
Mr Štefan FÜLE

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for European Affairs

Denmark:

Poul Skytte CHRISTOFFERSEN

Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Günter GLOSER

Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Estonia:

Mr Urmas PAET

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Dick ROCHE

Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and
at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special
responsibility for European Affairs

Greece:

Ms Dora BAKOYANNI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Diego LÓPEZ GARRIDO

State Secretary for the European Union

France:

Mr Bernard KOUCHNER
Mr Pierre LELLOUCHE

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs
State Secretary with responsibility for European affairs

Italy:

Mr Franco FRATTINI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Cyprus:

Mr Markos KYPRIANOU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Latvia:

Mr Andris TEIKMANIS

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lithuania:

Mr Vygaudas UŠACKAS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Immigration

Hungary:

Mr Péter BALÁZS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Malta:

Mr Tonio BORG

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Tom de BRUIJN

Permanent Representative

Austria:

Mr Michael SPINDELEGGER

Federal Minister for European and International Affairs

Poland:

Mr Radosław SIKORSKI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis AMADO
Ms Teresa RIBEIRO

State Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for European Affairs

Romania:

Mr Cristian DIACONESCU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovenia:

Mr Igor SENČAR

Permanent Representative

Slovakia:

Ms Oľga ALGAYEROVÁ

State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Finland:

Mr Alexander STUBB
Ms Astrid THORS

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Migration and European Affairs

Sweden:

Mr Carl BILDT
Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM
Mr Frank BELFRAGE

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for European Affairs
State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr David MILIBAND

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Commission:

Mr Antonio TAJANI
Mr Olli REHN
Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER

Vice President
Member
Member

General Secretariat of the Council:

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

ITEMS DEBATED

SOMALIA - Council conclusions

The Council debated the situation in Somalia.

After the discussion, it adopted the following conclusions:

- “1. The Council condemns the armed attacks against Somalia’s Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and against the UN and NGOs. It expresses its deep concern over the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and calls on all parties to the conflict to respect international law. The situation in Somalia remains one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.
2. The Council reaffirms its support to the Transitional Federal Government under the leadership of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and the President’s commitments to honour the principles laid down in the Djibouti Peace Agreement, including the spirit of reconciliation and the search for an inclusive political process. It calls on all armed groups to urgently lay down their weapons and join in a genuine broad-based dialogue with the TFG. The Council expresses its appreciation and support to the AU and AMISOM for their efforts.
3. The Council underlines the importance of a comprehensive approach to the situation in Somalia, linking security with development, rule of law and respect for human rights, gender related aspects and international humanitarian law. It stresses that long term assistance from international partners cannot be effective without a stabilization of the security situation.
4. The Council encourages constructive engagement from all regions of Somalia, including Puntland and Somaliland, in building an environment of trust and cooperation to mutual benefit. The Council also recognises that the situation in Somalia must be addressed in a regional and international context, with all neighbouring states playing a constructive role for a lasting and peaceful solution to the present conflict.

5. The Council welcomes the successful conduct of the EU NAVFOR ATALANTA operation, which is playing a leading role in international anti-piracy efforts. It also welcomes the international community's ongoing work to ensure prosecution of piracy. The Council recognizes the important work conducted within the International Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia. It stresses the need to fight the root causes of piracy.
6. The Council recalls the longstanding and continuing efforts of Member States and the Community to address the dire humanitarian situation and to provide humanitarian and development assistance. Furthermore, it welcomes the additional Community contributions of 60 MEUR for AMISOM and 13 MEUR for the UNDP-managed Rule of Law and Security programme, as well as Member States' contributions to the security sector, as pledged at the donor's conference in April.
7. The Council has decided to step up the EU engagement for promoting peace and development in Somalia, in line with the High Representative's recommendations. Due to the difficulties of engaging effectively in the country, efforts will entail a flexible and phased approach. EU engagement will be guided by the principles of accountability, transparency and Somali ownership. Priority will be given to activities that produce quick, yet sustainable, results to promote peace and recovery for the Somali people. Capacity building of public institutions will be of particular importance in this context.
8. The Council underlines that EU efforts will have to be closely coordinated with all relevant actors. It recognises the important role played by the International Contact Group on Somalia under the leadership of the UN SRSG.
9. In this context the Council
 - (a) will explore ways to increase assistance to support TFG institutions. It welcomes the first steps taken by the TFG to establish accountable financing systems;

- (b) expresses its continued support to AMISOM, given its pivotal role in the peace process. Further engagement with the AU and AMISOM should identify the most urgent needs and possible additional EU support in order for AMISOM to develop capabilities commensurate with its mandate;
 - (c) will explore the possibility of additional EU support to the security sector, including through support to the UN-led assessment process and TFG priorities and commitments as well as through the training of security forces. The Council agrees that support in the security sector should be well coordinated, notably with the AU, the UN and other relevant EU partners, in particular the US. It should support a Somali national security strategy, committed to the rule of law, respect for human rights and gender;
 - (d) intends to assess possible additional EU support to regional maritime capabilities in cooperation with the International Maritime Organisation and the International Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia. Related issues such as coastal environmental protection and fishery protection should be addressed;
 - (e) will encourage diaspora communities to engage constructively in the peace process for the state-building and development of Somalia;
 - (f) views positively the possibility of appointing an EUSR for the Horn of Africa in order to further enhance the EU's ongoing strategic policy formulation and the coordination of EU activities.
10. The Council invites the relevant Council bodies and institutions and the Commission to urgently elaborate detailed and concrete proposals on the implementation of these conclusions.

GEORGIA - Council conclusions

The Council had an exchange of views on the situation in Georgia and agreed to revert to this issue during the Autumn.

After the discussion, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

- “1. The Council has decided to extend the mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM) for another 12 months until 14 September 2010.
2. The rapid deployment of the mission following the conflict between Georgia and Russia in August 2008 showed the EU’s willingness and ability to act resolutely to promote peace and stability. The deployment of EU monitors has contributed to creating the necessary conditions for the implementation of the agreements of 12 August and 8 September, 2008. In this context, the Council called again on all parties to fully comply with their commitments, including the withdrawal of all military forces to the positions held prior to the outbreak of hostilities. The Council further recalled that EUMM Georgia has a country-wide mandate and called for unhindered access of EUMM to Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which has so far been denied. The Council deplored the attack on EUMM on 21 June and called on all parties to ensure a secure environment for the mission.
3. The Council welcomed the achievements of EUMM Georgia, in particular in the areas of stabilisation, normalisation, and confidence building. The mission’s presence on the ground remains a key stabilizing factor. EUMM Georgia has monitored the partial withdrawal of Russian troops and the return of Georgian police to areas adjacent to the administrative boundary lines. The mission has reported on several serious incidents, and on the situation of internally displaced persons, the respect of the rule of law, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Council encouraged the mission to continue its efforts, including to take part in the implementation of different confidence building measures.

4. The Council noted with deep regret and concern that agreement has not been reached on the future of the UN and OSCE monitoring missions in Georgia. This development further underscores the crucial role of EUMM Georgia. The EU will continue its close cooperation with the UN and the OSCE in all matters pertaining to Georgia. The Council reaffirmed its full commitment to the Geneva talks and the continued co-chairmanship of this forum by the EU, UN and OSCE.

5. The Council recalled its conclusions from 13 October 2008 and those of the European Council from 1 September 2008 and reiterated its firm support for the security and stability of Georgia, based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognised by international law, including the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and United Nations Security Council resolutions.”

IRAN

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the situation in Iran following the presidential elections.

They expressed their continuing concern about the detention of a French lecturer in Iran, Mrs Clothilde Reiss, and of hundreds of Iranian nationals. They also expressed concern about the overall deterioration of the human rights situation in the country. In this context, Ministers stated that they were looking at further steps vis-à-vis Iran.

Ministers also discussed the implications of the presidential elections including for the nuclear question.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS***- Visa requirement imposed by Canada on Czech nationals***

The Council expressed its solidarity with the Czech Republic on this issue and invited the Commission, in consultation with the Czech Republic, to take steps with the authorities of Canada to quickly restore visa-free for Czech Nationals.

- Republic of Moldova

The Council was briefed by the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sikorski about his visit to the Republic of Moldova ahead of the parliamentary elections of 29 July 2009.

IN THE MARGINS OF THE COUNCIL

- 6th meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the EU ([12427/09](#)).
- EU Troika meeting with Belarus.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

None.
