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NOTE

From:	Council
To:	European Council
Subject :	Presidency Report on ESDP

Delegations will find at annex the Presidency Report on ESDP as approved by the Council on 16 June 2008.

ESDP Presidency Report June 2008

1. In line with the mandate defined by the European Council in December 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

Western Balkans

3. In line with the conclusions of European Council of 14 December 2007, which underlined the readiness of the EU to play a leading role in strengthening the stability in the region and following the Council adoption of Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP on 4 February 2008, and subsequent planning documents (Concept of Operations also on 4 February and Operational Plan on 16 February), **the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo**, EULEX KOSOVO was established for 28 months, until 15 June 2010. On 7 February 2008, Yves de Kermabon was appointed as Head of the EULEX Kosovo mission. In parallel, on 4 February, Peter Feith was appointed as EU Special Representative for Kosovo. The personnel selection process is being finalised, while the deployment is ongoing. Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States have formally indicated that they will contribute to EULEX Kosovo. The PSC established the Committee of Contributors on 22 April 2008, which first convened on 26 May 2008.
4. Following the successful reconfiguration of **Operation ALTHEA** in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2007 the EU-led force (EUFOR) 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. The Council welcomed the successful participation of elements of the European Gendarmerie Force in the Integrated Police Unit of EUFOR since November 2007.

5. The Council reviewed Operation ALTHEA on 16 June and approved the Secretary General/High Representative's recommendations on the operation in the light of the advice received from relevant Council bodies. The Council reiterated that the EU remained actively committed to BiH, including through Operation ALTHEA, and 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. The Council welcomed recent political developments in BiH, and noted that further developments in the country would need to be reflected in the EU's overall engagement. The Council noted that the security situation remained stable, welcomed the positive contribution of the operation to the safe and secure environment in BiH, and added that EUFOR continued to provide reassurance and remained ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country.
6. Coherence of overall EU action, including in support of further progress on reforms, in BiH - involving all EU actors including the Commission and EU Heads of Mission - remains a priority. The EU Force Commander, the EUSR and the Head of EUPM continue to consult each other regularly prior to taking action. EUFOR has also maintained a close working relationship, including on operational matters, with other international actors. In respect of Operation ALTHEA, cooperation with NATO continues to work smoothly and efficiently.
7. The **EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM)** has promoted and intensively supported the reform of the BiH law enforcement agencies. The adoption of the two police reform laws on 16 April is considered a major step forward and allowed for the signature of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA).
8. The implementation of this legislation will allow EUPM, the mandate of which has been extended for another two years until 31 December 2009, to focus on concrete capacity building at state level while promoting simultaneously a bottom-up approach for the country-wide harmonisation of all laws pertaining to law enforcement agencies and police officials.

9. Against these institutional developments, BiH law enforcement agencies and, in particular, SIPA have made substantial progress in developing sustainable policing arrangements for the targeting of organised crime networks and bringing to justice key figures allegedly involved in serious criminal offences.
10. Coordination among law enforcement agencies and an effective cooperation with the judiciary still require a close monitoring by EUPM to cement the good practice and the achievements monitored in key cases.
11. Through its various instruments, including ESDP, the EU has contributed to security sector reform in BiH.
12. EUPM has, with support of the Presidency, organised a seminar on Police Reform in BiH - Security Sector Reform and the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) held in Sarajevo in June 2008. The outcome and lessons identified will contribute to the formulation of strategies to strengthen the rule of law and enable further progress towards European integration, to be promoted both by ESDP and Community Instruments.

Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus

13. The mandate of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus was extended until 28 February 2009, prolonging also the activities of the **EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia**. The team continues its work on assisting the implementation of the border reform in line with the EU-Georgia ENP Action Plan Priority Area 4. The Border Management Strategy of Georgia was endorsed by the President of Georgia on 4 February 2008. The team is assisting in drawing up the Implementation Action Plan of the approved strategy. The team promotes cooperation between Border Police and Revenue Service (Customs) in drafting joint procedures for cooperation and co-ordination in accordance with the European Concept for Integrated Border Management.

14. Additionally, the team continues assisting Georgian Border Police in the implementation of approved Standard Operating Procedures in the field. A new task for the team is to establish relevant contacts in the conflict regions - South Ossetia and Abkhazia - thereby enabling the team to contribute to confidence-building and to assess border-related issues in those regions. The task will be carried out once agreed with the Georgian Government and all parties concerned.
15. The **Border Team of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova** continued its activities in contributing to enhancement of cooperation at the common border between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, with a particular focus on the Transnistrian section. The activities of the Border Team have been prolonged until 28 February 2009, following the extension of the mandate of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova.
16. 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 the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine)**, which is a European Commission activity, staffed to a large extent by seconded experts from EU Member States. 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.
17. The Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine establishing EUBAM was extended for an additional period of 24 months until 30 November 2009. The Head of EUBAM is also carrying out the function of Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova.

Middle East

18. 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.
19. The mission continues to provide training to Iraqi judges, prosecutors, senior members of the police force and senior penitentiary personnel. As of 16 May, the mission has provided training to a total of 1483 Iraqi personnel through 62 courses and 12 work experience secondments. During the first half of 2008, the mission facilitated with the help of Member States 11 training courses and one work experience secondment, with a total of approximately 200 participants.
20. EUJUST LEX continues to work to ensure Iraqi ownership and works closely with Iraqi interlocutors in order to make sure that it delivers training which corresponds to Iraqi needs.
21. The **EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories** (EUPOL COPPS) is assisting the Palestinian Civilian Police (PCP) in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements under Palestinian ownership in accordance with best international standards.
22. On 24 December 2007, by signing an exchange of letters with the SG/HR, the Israeli government granted diplomatic accreditation to the mission. In January 2008, the EU has approved contributions from two non-EU members, Canada and Norway, who seconded a total of three officers to the mission in the first half of the year. Following the EU Action Plan from November 2007, the mission is now planning an expansion of its Rule of Law section to undertake additional tasks in building capacity of the penal and criminal justice systems and the Prosecutor's office. A Civilian Response Team was deployed to the occupied Palestinian Territories to participate in the joint Commission–Council Secretariat FFM which was conducted from 25 May to 6 June in order to assess the needs and scope of the aid in the broader rule of law area in the occupied Palestinian Territories.

23. 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.
24. The Council has 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 has underlined the importance of the implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access by all parties. The EU remains committed in its readiness to redeploy to the Rafah crossing point as soon as conditions allow it and has extended the mandate of the mission until 24 November 2008.

Africa

25. In accordance with 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 its military element, the EU launched on 28 January 2008 the bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (**EUFOR Tchad/RCA**).
26. This operation is being carried out in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, for a period of one year from the date that its initial operational capability was declared, on 15 March 2008. The Full Operational Capability (FOC) is expected to be achieved before the end of June 2008 and the situation on the ground is being constantly assessed by the competent Council bodies and the Operation Commander. The Council looked forward to the mid-term review and report foreseen in UNSCR 1778(2007) which will report arrangements for following up EUFOR Tchad/RCA after the one-year period for which it has been authorised by the UN Security Council. The Council stressed the need for a timely start of preparatory work by the EU and the UN in this respect.

27. Negotiations with some third States that have shown willingness to contribute to the operation are ongoing. The PSC has accepted formal offers by Russia and Albania to participate in the operation. Non-EU European NATO members and other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU have been regularly informed about the development of the operation.
28. 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 the region, in particular 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, with the support of the Commission's Programme d'Accompagnement à la Stabilisation de l'Est du Tchad, as well as contributing to ensure MINURCAT's security and freedom to operate. In observance of its mandate, EUFOR Tchad/RCA will continue to act in an impartial, neutral and independent manner. The deployment has been welcomed by the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic.
29. Furthermore, the conduct of operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA is supplemented by continuous EU activities on a political level to foster inter-Chadian and regional dialogue in implementing the 13 August 2007 Agreement and the implementation of the 13 March 2008 Dakar Agreement between the Governments of Chad and Sudan, as well as by Community programmes.
30. The Council also welcomed the Commission's decision to assist in the financing of strengthening electoral capacity in Chad, including a census, in advance of the scheduled 2009 legislative elections. On the longer term, the 10th EDF's National Indicative Programme for Chad seeks to build on MINURCAT in reforming the justice sector to address the Chadian difficulties in the long-term, in addition to supporting good governance, SSR and development of Chadian infrastructure.

Democratic Republic of Congo

31. The two ESDP missions, together with the European Community activities, have maintained their support to the Security Sector Reform (SSR) process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through the provision of expertise and technical assistance to the different domains (Police, Justice and Defence).
32. The Nairobi and Goma Peace processes have provided renewed impetus for stabilisation of the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, supported by the efforts of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the African Great Lakes and European Community activity. In the security domain, further support may be required from the international community.
33. **EUSEC RD Congo** continued its work and efforts in the field of SSR and DDR in line with the mandate which expires on 30 June 2008. As regards the renovation of the military administration, the mission has continued the biometric census of the Armed Forces personnel. The chain-of-payments project has achieved real progress, notably the better delivery of increased salaries to the military. A gradual transfer of responsibilities to the Congolese administration is now a rational objective by June 2009.
34. The Congolese Government adopted in February 2008 a new Army model. This decision represents a key step that will need international support for its implementation. After a joint mission to the DR Congo by the EUSR, Presidency and Secretariat, the SG/HR in April 2008 proposed to the government a provision of advice and technical assistance for the definition of modalities for the organisation of a Rapid Reaction Force.
35. The security situation in the East of the country has experienced some improvements in the wake of the signatures of the Nairobi communiqué and the Goma engagement acts for the Kivu provinces. Those recent achievements are still fragile as demonstrated by the continued violation of human rights by armed groups. Nevertheless, they represent the beginning of a process that could lead to a lasting peace. In this regard, the mission EUSEC RD Congo has provided support to the EUSR for the African Great Lakes Region in his efforts aiming at maintaining on track these processes.

36. Since **EUPOL RD Congo** started on 1 July 2007, important milestones have been achieved in the policing field: the operationalisation of the Comité Mixte de Réforme de la Police (CSRP) along with its working groups allowing to move forward the police reform. The mission has also continued to facilitate the linkage between the police and justice realms through its justice interface and its expertise provided to the justice reform process.
37. EUPOL RD Congo has continued to work in close cooperation with all international partners and close coordination with the Delegation of the European Commission as well as with the other ESDP mission, EUSEC RD Congo, especially through their joint capacities (Security/Human Rights-Children in Armed Conflict/Gender/Press and Public Information).
38. EUPOL RD Congo's mandate has been extended for another year, until 30 June 2009, with a view to consolidate the mission's achievements in support of the Congolese police reform process and its interaction with justice within the broader framework of Security Sector Reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The extended mission will comprise the deployment of a limited number of experts to the cities of Goma and Bukavu in order to assist on the strategic level in the linkages and harmonisation between the police-related activities in the Eastern DRC and the reform process of the Congolese police, as well as to deliver assistance and expertise to the police and to the Gender and Human Rights/Children and armed conflict aspects of the stabilisation process in Eastern DRC.
39. Following Council adoption of the Joint Action on 12 February 2008, and the subsequent approval of planning documents (Concept of Operations on 12 February and Operational Plan on 5 June, the **EU mission in support of security sector reform in Guinea Bissau** was launched on 16 June 2008 and will last until end of May 2009. On 4 March General Juan Esteban Verástegui was appointed as head of EUSSR Guinea Bissau.
40. The strategic objective is to obtain a self-sustaining security sector capable of responding to society's security needs, including the fight against organised crime, compatible with democratic norms and principles of good governance, contributing to stability and lasting development in Guinea Bissau.

41. The mission provides advice and assistance on reform of the security sector (SSR) 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 there through subsequent donor engagement. The mission will have a comprehensive character, having tasks with police, judicial and military components contributing to security sector reform.
42. Successful implementation of SSR in Guinea Bissau will depend on the commitment of funds and resources by the international community and the commitment of the local authorities to promote SSR implementation.

Asia

43. Since its launch in June 2007, the **EU Police Mission in Afghanistan**, EUPOL AFGHANISTAN has further developed its action in Afghanistan in support to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), providing advice to the GIROA on the reform of the Afghan National Police (ANP) and mentoring and monitoring Afghan authorities. 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.

44. The mission has now overcome the logistics challenges it faced during its build-up phase. EUPOL has made progress in implementing its mandate and is now deployed throughout the country: full deployment is planned for the end of the reporting period (June 2008). In addition to its staff based in EUPOL HQ, its mentors and advisers working with their Afghan counterparts in Kabul in central Afghan administrations, the mission is now deployed to most of the Afghan territory (in the Northern, Western and Southern regions), with EUPOL staff accommodated in Provincial Reconstruction Teams (9 PRTs, covering 13 Afghan provinces). Outside Kabul, the rehatting and/or deployment of these personnel under EUPOL AFGHANISTAN has further increased the mission's added value in terms of coordination of the International Community (IC) reform efforts in Afghanistan. There was substantial progress achieved by EUPOL AFGHANISTAN in the implementation of its mandate and in its deployment throughout the country.
45. The mission has been actively working with partners in rationalising the support that they offer to the Afghan Ministry of Interior and ANP to ensure a co-ordinated effort. The International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) and its Secretariat (partly manned with EUPOL AFGHANISTAN staff) are now up and running, thus supporting the work of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) on the Afghan Compact. In this framework, the mission has been particularly involved in the development of a joint plan for MoI support, as well as the development of an integrated vision for the ANP, addressing requirements of law enforcement. The mission has also closely coordinated with the US on the development of a proposal for the reform of the MoI. Additionally EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, in close cooperation with the EC delegation, has continued working towards the consolidation of activities across the criminal justice sector, including efforts to support the legislative and operational reform of criminal investigations, prosecutions and police – prosecutor cooperation. The mission has also been advising the Afghan authorities on the development of a Training Strategy for the ANP as well as on border management.

46. Given the size of the task, the EU is committed to substantially increase its efforts through EUPOL Afghanistan, with the aim of doubling the original number of experts working in the mission. Such an increase of the mission size would provide an important additional capacity on the key police reform issues. Due to the challenging operational environment, thorough preparation, timely planning, prior full operational capability and continued contribution of high-calibre staff are essential.

II. Planning and conduct of civilian missions and military operations

47. The **Directorate for Civilian Crisis Management** (DGE IX) is responsible for political, strategic and horizontal issues of civilian crisis management, including policy and planning of civilian ESDP missions at the strategic level (in particular the Crisis Management Concept). It initiates the mainstreaming of new policy into operations, and is responsible for lessons learned/best practices/evaluation, relations with Third States and International Organisations, concepts, training and the capability development process. The service has gone through a reorganisation in recent months with the creation of two units (Horizontal issues; Operational issues), additional posts and it has acquired new expertise.
48. New arrangements continue to be implemented for command and control (C2) of EU civilian operations in crisis management as agreed by Council in June 2007. The acting Director of the **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability** (CPCC) stepped down after six months in February 2008 to take on new responsibilities. On May 1 2008, Kees Klompenhouwer, CPCC Director/Civilian Operations Commander was appointed to exercise C2 at the 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 under the overall authority of the SG/HR. CPCC's start-up recruitment drive is now complete. Internal standard operating procedures are in place.

49. Work continues in terms of strengthening command and control structures, enhancing duty of care and defining relations with other partners in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, in particular the Watchkeeping Capability which, as 15 April, is progressively taking over under the CivOpCdr's functional authority the reception, view and transmission of information from and to civilian ESDP missions.
50. In the reporting period, two new missions were planned and launched (EU SSR Guinea-Bissau; EULEX Kosovo) and another (support to AMIS) closed down.
51. In the context of the conduct of civilian missions and in the line with the European Security Strategy which stated that better coordination between external action and justice and Home Affairs policies is crucial in particular in the fight against organized crime, progress was made on possible cooperation mechanisms between civilian ESDP Missions and Europol as regards the mutual exchange of information.
52. Work was conducted in order to implement the SG/HR report on the EU Military Staff's ability to conduct military planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations, as requested by the Council in May 2007, following the Wiesbaden Ministerial Conference. This resulted in a provisional restructuring of the EUMS and a limited revision of its Terms of Reference and organisation, aimed at enhancing the military ability to conduct early planning at strategic level in order to better inform and accelerate the Member States' decision-making process. A first evaluation report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the agreed measures and actions will be provided in November 2008.
53. **The EU Watchkeeping Capability (WKC)**, as part of the Operations Directorate of the EU Military Staff has reached Initial Operating Capability by 17 March. It started initially with nine watchkeepers, an additional three have been selected and arrived by summer. Currently the WKC monitors the two military ESDP operations and five civilian missions. Two WKC exercises were held in order to test WKC/CPCC/SITCEN procedures and interaction. After completion of the training of the additional three watchkeepers and assumption of watchkeeping responsibilities for all civilian missions the WKC will reach FOC by the end of August 2008.

III. Lessons Identified/Lessons Learned

54. **The Process started on the establishment of** an architecture for evaluation, lessons and best practices of civilian ESDP missions that will provide a coherent framework for evaluation from this point onwards with a view to continuous learning and improvement. Civilian ESDP lessons to date were reviewed as well and a set of action plans for their implementation agreed. PSC will monitor the implementation of the plans within the next 6 months.
55. The **EU civilian-military supporting action to the African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS II)** was terminated on 31 December 2007 and its Civilian Component, the EU Police Team, was reduced to a 6-member Liquidation Team whose task was to proceed to the closure of the mission and the preparation of the Final Report. This closure process was completed by 30 April 2008 and the Final Report for the Civilian Component was presented to PSC by the Head of the Police Team on 15 April 2008. PSC noted lessons from the EU supporting action to AMIS II. The implementation of the lessons will be monitored by the PSC.
56. A number of recommendations are being prepared in view of the lessons learned process after the termination of the **EU Civilian-Military Supporting Action to the African Union Mission in the Darfur Region of Sudan (AMIS)** on 31 December 2007. The aim is to further consolidate these lessons and consider them in the planning of subsequent/possible civilian/military supporting actions or missions.

IV. Capabilities

(a) **Development of Civilian Capabilities**

57. The Political and Security Committee agreed an implementation plan for the **new Civilian Headline Goal 2010** that was established by the Council on 19 November 2007. In line with this implementation plan, the EU has launched a capability planning process to assess required civilian ESDP capabilities and survey their availability. In this process, special attention is dedicated to possible synergies between civilian and military ESDP and between ESDP and European Community action and to enhance the visibility of this process.
58. The first step in the implementation was the establishment of a new common pilot illustrative scenario supportive of both civilian and military ESDP capability development processes, taking into account relevant capabilities available to the European Community. On this basis, EU capabilities (understood as personnel, equipment and concepts) necessary for a possible civilian ESDP mission are to be identified, taking account of all resources available to the EU and possible synergies between them.
59. The **development of the Civilian Capability Management Tool**, which started under the CHG 2008, was carried forward. This tool consists of interlinked software applications serving two main functions, i.e. supporting the civilian capability development process and supporting ESDP mission planning and preparation, notably the identification and raising of Human Resources. The development work is conducted in close cooperation with the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). The first leg of this system is expected to reach operational status by June 2008.

60. The implementation of the **Civilian Response Team (CRT)** process continued through the Call for nominations with the aim of strengthening the pool with 30 more experts, reaching the agreed overall target of 100 experts and, in particular, reinforcing the pool in the field of mission support. The nominations process is ongoing and new members of the pool will be trained in the autumn of 2008. This training was financed by the European Commission. Furthermore, the European Commission continued to provide procurement training and started to provide financial training for CRT pool members as well as other MS experts.
61. The CPCC has made tangible progress in its internal build-up of **mission support** by acquiring resources both in terms of numbers and know-how. The strengthened capacity of CPCC has led to a deeper reflection on the need to make the current civilian crisis management more efficient and more professional. Further work is ongoing to make ESDP missions' internal administration more efficient and professional, and to strengthen the overall systemic oversight to ensure that (a) the planning and conduct of civilian ESDP missions works efficiently, (b) in a professional manner and that (c) timely action can be taken to correct/improve when necessary. Part of this work is being undertaken in full cooperation with Directorate-General RELEX of the European Commission, according to the respective competences.
62. A joint working paper of the Council Secretariat and the European Commission containing an action plan to be gradually implemented in a number of thematic areas (concepts, finance, procurement, general support services and human resources) was presented to Member States. The action plan aims at improving the rapid and efficient deployment and conduct of ESDP civilian missions and presents a number of steps to be jointly undertaken by the Secretariat and the Commission. These include, inter alia, an agreement to develop a handbook for use of civilian ESDP mission administrations, a logistics framework, the improvement of recruitment procedures in general as well as streamlining and standardising of administrative procedures within missions. The implementation of the work programme will be closely monitored by the relevant Council bodies. A workshop was held in June to launch the work of the three task groups in the areas of human resources requirements, force generation and deployment.

63. The concept of **Preparatory Measures and Preparatory Teams** in the context of the Preparatory Measures budget line within the CFSP budget was further developed in order to make the Preparatory Measures budget line operational; the aim is to facilitate significantly the preparation of future civilian ESDP missions by making funds rapidly available notably for procurement of key equipment and early deployment of administrative personnel.
64. The ability of the EU to ensure immediate deployment can be optimized by relying on an extensive catalogue of existing contracts at the disposal of the missions, and pre-established partnerships with suppliers. In this regard, work has been undertaken in the area of procurement concerning the elaboration and conclusion of framework contracts: the contracts for armoured vehicles and soft-skin off-road vehicles have been recently concluded, the procedure for the soft-skin city vehicles has been launched and is on-going, the launch of a specific procedure for Communications and Information Systems equipment and services is expected to take place very soon. In the near future, work is expected to continue with a view to the conclusion of contracts for the provision of services related to health, medevac and high risk insurances. A tender on strategic transport is also planned to be launched in the near future.
65. On the issue of **human resources**, the implementation of the new regime for ESDP missions' international contracted staff was revised through the new Commission Communication on CFSP Special Advisers, and related implementation tools. The new remuneration regime for international contracted staff improves the attractiveness of ESDP missions as employers and thus helps improve the availability of essential mission support personnel, for the posts not already covered by seconded personnel.
66. The effort to give more awareness to Calls for Contributions for ESDP operation is still on-going, with the creation of web links in different agencies and cross-links among the missions themselves.

(b) Development of Military Capabilities

67. Within the context of the Headline Goal (HLG) 2010 and as recommended by the Progress Catalogue 2007 (PC07), the EU Military Committee (EUMC) conducted an analysis resulting in a **First Prioritisation of capability shortfalls**, which was approved by the EUMC on 30 April 2008. The analysis was based on PC07, including its Initial Orientation, and additional available information.
68. The First Prioritisation refines the Initial Orientation findings in PC07 by associating a higher or lower importance to identified capability shortfalls within the Critical, Intermediate and Minor groups respectively. This EUMC prioritisation of the capability shortfalls for the short-to-mid term in the context of the HLG 2010 informs the capability development process and provides an EUMC guidance for addressing the identified shortfalls, in particular in the areas of force protection, deployability and information superiority. Within the Critical group, capability shortfalls related to Computer Network Operations, establishing and operating from austere bases and locations, Inter Theatre Transport, Vertical Lift, Air-to-Air Refuelling, and Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Collection were given higher importance.
69. Progress was made in the **Capability Development Plan (CDP)**, which participating Member States are elaborating through the European Defence Agency and the EUMC in active and efficient cooperation. Besides those Strands, which fall under the responsibility of the EUMC, Strands A and D, the EUMC played a collaborative role in Strand B, which aims at identifying possible trends in future ESDP military capability needs beyond the Headline Goal 2010.
70. Member States were encouraged to use the CDP, of which a first tranche of actionable conclusions will be presented at the EDA Steering Board in July, as a tool to orientate their efforts to further improve their military capabilities.

71. A Compilation of the **Headline Goal (HLG) 2010 process Lessons Identified** was elaborated as a basis for further work, including analysing these lessons and drawing conclusions, and for possible refinements of the HLG process.
72. On 18 April 2008 the PSC noted the Final Reports of the three remaining Project Groups of the **European Capability Action Plan (ECAP)**. Following PSC's recommendation, the Council agreed on 26 May to terminate the ECAP. The issues raised by the former Project Groups, namely the processing of Special Operations Forces Concept deliverables, the EU Headquarters manning mechanism and an Air and Missile Defence CONOPS, will be further elaborated by the EUMS, drawing upon Member States expertise as required. The EUMC will keep the PSC informed about these issues.
73. On 15 January 2008, the PSC sought advice from CIVCOM on the proposal to utilise the same **Information Gathering (IG) Tool** for the civilian and the military capability development processes. The full context of IG for the EU is under development. Additionally, the PSC endorsed the requirement to contact NATO, to determine whether NATO is willing to share an IG Tool that satisfies both EU and NATO requirements.
74. On 10 March 2008, the EUMC agreed the **Framework for EU Military Conceptual Documents**. It describes how the EUMC manages this framework and its content.
75. The **EU Military Rapid Response Concept** provides a basis for the conduct of EU-led military operations requiring a rapid response. Following a Tri-Presidency (Germany, Portugal, Slovenia) initiative, a mandate and methodology for conducting a review of this concept was agreed by the EUMC on 20 December 2007. An initial meeting was held on 15 April 2008, at which Member States agreed to hold two workshops on this issue, with the first workshop on 29 and 30 May 2008.

76. Since 1 January 2007, two **Battlegroups (BG)** have been on standby at any given time. At the Battlegroup Co-ordination Conference (BGCC) on 24 April 2008, Member States have committed in detail the required BG packages until the second Semester in 2009 and have committed BG packages until the first Semester in 2011. They were invited to make new voluntary offers at next Conference in October 2008 in order to fill in particular the vacant slot in second semester of 2010. The next BGCC will be held on 16 October 2008.
77. Work was conducted on possible ways to improve standardisation in support of MS-led BG preparatory activities. According to a methodology set in January 2008, two workshops were organised to elaborate a Generic Training Guide and a Generic Evaluation and Certification Guide. These documents will be merged in a single BG Generic Preparation Guide, to be presented to the EUMC in July 2008 and used by Member States on a voluntary basis.
78. In response to an EU Chiefs of Defence task in November 2007, the EUMS produced a Food For Thought paper on the realities associated with meeting the agreed EU BG related decision and deployment timelines. This paper initiated two workstrands: the incorporation of the early activation of EU Operation and Force Headquarters into ongoing work on the Headquarters manning mechanism, and the compression of the timelines for Operational Planning documents in support of the EU BG Concept.
79. The EU **Maritime Rapid Response** and **Air Rapid Response** Concepts were agreed by the EUMC on 15 November 2007 and 21 December 2007. They both foresee the implementation of a Maritime or Air Rapid Response Mechanism focused on force generation and supported by a Database, updated through bi-annual Maritime or Air Rapid Response Information Conferences and Member States' own initiatives.
80. The Maritime Rapid Response Database was populated in April 2008 by Member States offers for the second semester 2008. It was reviewed during the first Maritime Rapid Response Information Conference (MarRRIC) which took place on 25 April 2008. The next MarRRIC will be held on 15 October 2008.

81. As a next step in the Air Rapid Response area it is foreseen to develop the Air Rapid Response database and to conduct the first Air Rapid Response Information Conference (AirRRIC). A Table Top Exercise conducted by the EUMS is planned to validate the concept.
82. A further step would be to develop the EUFOR Deployment Operating Base implementing doctrine and to validate it. National exercises such as BAPEX 08 to be conducted by France on 3-5 December 2008 will inform this reflection.

(c) European Defence Agency (EDA)

83. The Head of the Agency's report highlighted good progress on developing and implementing long-term strategies, and on generating and maturing specific cooperative initiatives.
84. The Agency made substantial progress in developing and implementing the long-term strategies:
 - a) The initial version of the Capability Development Plan (CDP), established in close consultation with the EUMC and the EUMS, should be delivered at the Steering Board in Capabilities Directors' formation in July this year, with the first tranche of Actionable Conclusions. Good progress has been achieved in the four strands of the CDP. In particular, work has progressed towards the identification of the potential capability trends and characteristics up to 2025 and beyond, and participating Member States have accelerated the inputting of potential collaborative projects into the dedicated Database with their national inputs.
 - b) The implementation of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base strategy is well on track with, notably, some progress on Security of Supply and on the identification of key industrial technologies to be developed or preserved in Europe (with agreement to start work on Future Air Systems).

- c) The development of a European Defence Research and Technology Strategy is under way, with progress on the definition of key technologies and on a number of new tools to manage Research and Technology (R&T) activities and to improve the generation of opt-in R&T projects under EDA's umbrella.
 - d) Work has continued on the development of a European Armaments strategy meant to describe the translation process between a capability need and a cooperative armaments programme.
85. Furthermore, the Agency started with advertising its potential added value in specific ad hoc cooperative projects and programmes with a view to enhancing and improving European cooperation.
86. The Agency also continued to implement policies and specific projects and initiatives, in particular:
- a) Positive assessment of the overall implementation of the Regime on defence procurement, indicating that in general subscribing Member States have adapted their procurement practices to the provisions of the Code of Conduct. Bulgaria decided to join the Regime on defence procurement on 23 April. Furthermore, the Steering Board approved on 26 May Norway's participation in the Regime.
 - b) Successful implementation of the first Agency's Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme, in the area of Force Protection, with contracted projects launched and further calls for projects under way.
 - c) Approval by the Steering Board in Defence Minister's formation of a new Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme, in the area of Innovative Concepts and Emerging Technologies.

- d) Initiation of activities to improve the availability of helicopters for ESDP operations, in the areas of training, upgrades and logistics.
- e) Preparatory work in view of implementing the roadmap to fly Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in regulated airspace.
- f) Progress on the drafting of the Network Enabled Capability Concept, to be discussed by the Steering Board in Capabilities Directors' formation (July 2008), after which the SG/HR will decide on further handling, for consideration of the Council bodies, including the PSC.
- g) Establishment of a Project Team to study viable business and operational models for the development of a European Air Transport Fleet and their implementation modalities.

V. Civil-Military Coordination

- 87. The Council noted further progress in the work on Information Exchange Requirements (IER) aimed at identifying operational requirements for exchanging information between all entities, both civilian and military, that may interact in support of ESDP operations. This work includes the development of vignettes covering military and civilian operations, as defined in the revised Global Overview and Roadmap noted by the PSC in December 2007. The Council looked forward to further Steps in accordance with the IER Methodology.
- 88. The Council noted that the work on IER is undertaken in close coordination with the work undertaken on the ESDP Network Enabled Capabilities.

VI. EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

89. The **EU Satellite Centre** continued to provide products and services in support of ESDP related activities. This covered support for EU operations and missions, contingency planning, as well as periodical monitoring tasks. In particular, the support to EUFOR Tchad/RCA, has led to a successful cooperation between the Operation Headquarters (OHQ) in Mont Valérien and the EUSC. The close cooperation with the UN has been pursued. The EUSC has taken an active role in the framework of the European initiative of Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES).

VII. EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

90. 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 a series of seminars, for example regarding Russia on 18 January 2008, the Mediterranean Union Initiative and the Barcelona Process on 7 March 2008, on the Western Balkans on 17 March, on Iran on 11 April, on Iraq on 14 April and on EU-Latin America military cooperation on 21 and 22 April. It co-hosted a high-level seminar in Rabat with the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on ESDP on 14 March 2008.

VIII. ESDP and Space

91. 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.
92. In the framework of GMES, the General Council Secretariat has continued, together with the European Commission, the reflection on the identification of end-user communities for future security applications and on specific generic requirements to fulfil security missions.

IX. Security and Development

93. The adoption by the Council in November 2007 of Conclusions on the nexus between security and development was the start of an important and ambitious process. The Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council, in close cooperation with the Member States, have initiated work to take the implementation of the Conclusions forward.
94. Initial actions identified in the Conclusions are increasingly put into practice (joint fact-finding missions, cross-pillar cooperation in the planning and preparation of ESDP operations, etc.).
95. Preparations for the future Action Plan on Security and Development are ongoing. The Conclusions confirmed that the Action Plan should be informed by lessons learned from past and current experiences in a few specific countries where ESDP missions and operations and/or CFSP, Community and bilateral Member States activities are being planned, conducted or have come to an end. These countries have been identified, and the Council welcomed the Commission's initiative to launch a study to draw lessons from current and past experiences in the countries.
96. The nexus between Security and Development is also taken duly into account in the framework of the implementation of the EU-Africa Partnership.
97. The Presidency has promoted work on specific dimensions of the Security and Development nexus. Studies on Children Affected by Armed Conflict, and Women and Armed Conflict, both with particular reference to development policy, have been discussed by relevant Council Working Parties.

X. Security Sector Reform and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

98. The Council welcomed the willingness of the United Nations to play an enhanced role in supporting Security Sector Reform (SSR). The report prepared last January by the Secretary-General exemplifies the potential for cooperation between the UN and its partners, including the European Union. The development of a holistic and coherent United Nations approach to security sector reform, in support of national actors, will help forge universally agreed policies and guidelines. The Council recalled its operational support for security sector reform through ESDP missions to partners outside the European Union. In this context, the EU stands ready to act as an important partner to a United Nations approach to security sector reform, including disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR).

XI. Human Rights Issues, Gender Issues and Protection of Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC)

99. The declassified version of the Handbook on Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender Issues into the ESDP is being published as a result of the Tri-Presidency (Germany, Portugal, Slovenia) continued efforts. It will enhance visibility and awareness of these issues within the civil society, NGOs, international organizations and target audiences on the ground.

Human Rights

100. Human Rights issues, including Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) and Gender issues continued to be systematically included in the planning and conduct of all ESDP missions and operations, and subsequently evaluated in the lessons learned process. Closer cooperation on these issues with EU Special Representatives (EUSRs), whose mandates contain specific provisions to address Human Rights issues, CAAC and Gender issues, is much welcomed.

Gender

101. The importance of Gender mainstreaming has continued to be emphasized, as well as the reinforcement of efforts in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and relevant EU documents, particularly with a view to achieving more concrete progress in this field on the ground. In this regard, the study conducted during this Presidency on Enhancing the EU response to women and armed conflict was a substantial contribution.
102. Several ESDP missions now have gender expertise in their missions. In the EUFOR Tchad/RCA operation, the gender adviser appointed to the Operational Headquarters is, inter alia, conducting gender training and has proposed a comprehensive structure for monitoring and reporting. The planned EULEX Kosovo mission will have a Human Rights and Gender Unit not only ensuring compliance of EULEX Kosovo policies and decisions with Human Rights and Gender standards but also constituting an entry point for all third parties complaints related to alleged breaches of the code of conduct against third parties. EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo share a gender adviser, as well as a Human Rights/Children and Armed Conflicts expert, and the gender adviser in EUPOL Afghanistan provides advice to the Afghan authorities on gender policy in the Afghan National Police. Finally, gender mainstreaming is subsequently being evaluated in the lessons learned processes.

Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC)

103. With regard to CAAC issues and the further implementation of UNSCR 1612, the study commissioned by the Presidency on this subject, as well as the review based on the Questionnaire and the concrete amendments to the Council document Checklist for the Integration of the Protection of Children affected by Armed Conflict into ESDP Operations, has particularly emphasized the aim to further enhance its implementation on the ground.

104. The revised Checklist points to needed improvements in the field of training, monitoring and reporting, public visibility and local awareness. Explicitly defining the concept of child protection, emphasizing the need for direct exchange of information and putting additional focus on the CAAC issues in the field, it is aimed at further improving the implementation of the Checklist among actors involved in ESDP missions/operations.
105. Within the wider framework of the activities undertaken by the Presidency on children affected by armed conflict, the Centre for European Perspective (CEP), in cooperation with the European Commission and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) organized a conference "Increasing the impact on the ground – NGO and EU collaboration in the thematic area of children affected by armed conflict". The conference aimed to gather representatives of NGOs, EU Member States, EU institutions and International Organizations with a proven expertise on the issue to look into how enhanced collaboration at all levels between the different EU institutions as well as between the institutions and NGOs can lead to more impact on the ground for children affected by armed conflict.

XII. Conflict Prevention

106. The European Union continued its efforts in the area of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict, adopted by the European Council in Göteborg in June 2001 and taking into account the European Security Strategy of December 2003. It also reflects the spirit of the Progress Report of the UN Secretary General on Prevention of Armed Conflicts published in August 2006 and the Recommendations of the EU Annual Report on conflict prevention adopted by the European Council in June 2007.
107. Throughout the reporting period, conflict prevention continued to be a key EU objective. Efforts were pursued to improve culture of conflict prevention, further strengthen conflict sensitivity and conflict prevention approach, develop the necessary capabilities and capacities and enhance coherence between the EU's various external policy instruments as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States.

108. The annual report on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts 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 were analysed, discussed and endorsed during a CivCom working group meeting in April 2008 which concluded that conflict prevention has made considerable progress but must be further enhanced in several sectors such as preparedness and adequate response to crisis situations. The findings of this assessment which was undertaken to present an overall view on conflict prevention, will be reflected in this year's conflict prevention report.
109. A **workshop on conflict prevention and climate change**, held on 24 and 25 April 2008 in Brussels, was the first in the new two-year programme on conflict prevention in practice. It was organised by the Madariaga European Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy with the support of the Presidency, and in cooperation with the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office. The workshop addressed the main security risks as well as the role of climate change as a cause or an exacerbating factor of conflict, and tried to indicate possible early warning strategies. Actors from different sectors and nations discussed how to improve the cooperation and partnership in conflict prevention. The workshop brought together senior representatives of major international and regional organizations and agencies as well as other key players in conflict prevention.

XIII. Visibility of the ESDP

110. Enhancing visibility of the ESDP remains one of the priorities of the EU. While our activities in the field of crisis management are growing and the EU is taking on increasing responsibility for the stabilization and peaceful development of regions affected by conflicts around the world, there is a clear need to continue to effectively communicate our goals and aims to the broader public, decision makers and major stake holders.

111. The EU continued to develop a clear and coherent information and communications strategy in the field of ESDP. Special attention was given to public outreach campaigns on the launch of the crisis management operations in Kosovo, Chad and Guinea Bissau and to the successful conduct of already ongoing operations, especially in Afghanistan. The information activities have been closely co-ordinated with public information activities in Brussels (Council Secretariat and relevant European Commission Services). Public diplomacy and ESDP was also discussed by Security Policy Directors at the meeting hosted by the Presidency in April 2008.

XIV. Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations

112. 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 Cooperation with NGOs and CSOs. Particular care was taken to ensure that NGO input as appropriate was given during the early stages of the planning phase for civilian ESDP missions.
113. With a view to reviewing the document "Enhancing Cooperation with NGOs and CSOs in the framework of EU civilian crisis management and conflict prevention" during this Presidency, a survey was undertaken with all Heads of Mission and EUSRs to investigate their current and past relations with NGOs and CSOs.
114. On the basis of the survey the review of the above mentioned document has been carried out. This Review outlines a number of areas where EU cooperation with NGOs/CSOs should be taken forward.

115. A Civil Society Conference with EULEX KOSOVO was organised in May by the Council General Secretariat in cooperation with the Presidency and EULEX KOSOVO and prepared in association with the European Peace Building Liaison Office (EPLO). The conference presented the objectives of EULEX KOSOVO to participating NGOs/CSOs, focussing on issues such as human rights, gender and accountability. The conference also explored how all actors can contribute to the strengthening of Rule of Law in Kosovo.

XV. EU Training relevant to ESDP

116. In January 2008, the Council approved the EU Training Programme in ESDP for the years 2008-2010. It includes the training activities of the European Security and Defence College and of other EU training actors, including those training activities of Member States that are open to participation of other nationals. The programme is kept available and regularly updated on the web page of the Council (ESDC web page).

117. Training activities in the field of ESDP of the various EU actors conducted in the previous year have been thoroughly evaluated in the **Comprehensive Annual Report on ESDP and ESDP-related Training (CART 2008)** and steps identified to further improve training activities have been approved by the Council. The possibility of a more systematic set-up of the annual EU Training Programme, a better management and coordination of some training activities provided at EU-level and possibilities to close the gap between training, recruitment and deployment in the field of civilian crisis management are some of the important conclusions agreed by the Council.

118. The **European Security and Defence College (ESDC)** successfully concluded its third ESDP High Level Course with the 5th and final module on 11 April 2008 in Ljubljana. Other modules were held in Brussels, Lisbon, Prague/Brno and Tartu. The course certificate was awarded to 61 course participants.
- Hosted by the Slovenian Presidency, for the first time, about 60 former course participants of the ESDP High Level Courses convened in Ljubljana for an ESDC Alumni Seminar from 10 to 12 April 2008.
- Furthermore, three ESDP Orientation Courses have been conducted successfully, one in February 2008 in Palermo hosted by CASD/Rome, a second in May 2008 in Brussels hosted by the Netherlands Defence College and a third one beginning of June 2008 in Brussels hosted by the Slovenian Presidency. Two of these courses were open to participation of third states and international organisations.
119. As regards the ESDC training activities, measures have been agreed by the ESDC Steering Committee to improve the quality and quantity of the ESDC courses. Firstly, a more conceptual and modular approach to future ESDC training activities will allow to address a wider range of audiences and to respond to new developments and demands arising from forthcoming missions and operations by offering a wider range of strategic-level courses. Secondly, the establishment and running of the Internet-based Advanced Distance Learning (IDL) System, including the development of training material for training relevant to ESDP, is now pursued with priority and will be tested in an experimental phase in the context of the next ESDP High Level Course 2008/2009, Module 1 in Summer and early Autumn 2008. The provision of a real IDL capacity, which could have wider benefits also for the national Institutes, will be subject to the necessary resources to be made available.
120. In February 2008, the PSC had a debate on the activities and perspectives of the ESDC based on the Article 13 Report of the ESDC Steering Committee where Member States expressed their general support to ESDC and its activities and recommended to Council a revision of the Joint Action establishing the ESDC taking into account the conclusions of this report. The revised Joint Action will be submitted to the Council for agreement on 23 June 2008.

121. As regards the future perspectives of the ESDC, the Council will revert to the issue in November 2008 on the basis of a detailed study including an agreed training need analysis.
122. Following the initiative to share Member States' training facilities on a voluntary basis, subsequently, the EUMS took this initiative forward. Member States provided their offers of available national training facilities, which were placed on a Catalogue on a Council website. After a first assessment, the EU shared training facilities catalogue is considered to be a useful tool on which the EUMS is currently working for improvement.
123. All on-going ESDP missions have continued with their regular training activities in the area of civilian crisis management. The **EUPT Kosovo** Training Team in particular has organized a regular three days in-mission induction training for all EULEX Kosovo personnel upon deployment, while Member States are responsible for pre-mission mission specific training of their personnel. This induction training plays a crucial role in ensuring common approach and vision amongst the mission staff.
124. Concerning training and evaluation, EULEX Kosovo is for the first time exercising a concept of best practices, which includes both training and evaluation as one of the quality assurance tools for the mission management as part of the Head of Mission's office. This concept will be further developed at the EU level as part of conceptual and capabilities development for the future ESDP civilian missions.
125. The Council Secretariat continued the practice of key mission personnel induction training organised in Brussels. For the EU SSR mission in Guinea-Bissau this training was successfully organised in several stages and included a special module on Security Sector Reform.

126. The European Commission financed two actions under the Instrument for Stability. The first project is designed to consolidate and to complete the work undertaken in the past years by the EC Project on training for civilian aspects of crisis management. The second project deals with the operational training of police experts to be deployed in international missions, aiming at training 600 experts in two sessions (one in June and the other in November 2008) in St. Astier, France, and is undertaken by the French Gendarmerie. CivCom was invited by the project and travelled to observe the practical exercises on 18/19 June.

XVI. Exercises

127. The Council approved the EU Exercise Programme 2009 - 2013 on 26 May 2008, thus defining the five year rolling programme of EU exercises and exercise-related activities.
128. The Council welcomed the successful conduct of the EU Military Exercise 2008 (MILEX 08). This third EU military exercise took place from 19-27 June 2008. It focused mainly on the interaction between the EU Operation Headquarters in Rome, provided by Italy and the EU Force Headquarters in Valencia, provided by Spain.
129. The Council underlined the importance of continued preparatory work for the EU crisis management exercise to be conducted from 29 September to 10 October 2008 (CME 08). This will provide an opportunity to undertake for the first time operational planning in parallel for a military operation and a reconfigured civilian ESDP mission engaged in the same theatre. The EU OHQ for this exercise will be at Mont Valérien (France), which also has responsibility for the operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability will be participating in an EU crisis management exercise for the first time.
130. Preparatory work was undertaken for the fourth EU Military Exercise to be held in 2009, i.e. MILEX 09, focusing on military aspects of crisis management at the military strategic and operational level for an envisaged EU-led crisis management operation, including maritime component, without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities. The EU OHQ for this exercise will be provided by Greece and is located in Larissa. In addition, the EU FHQ will be in Naples and is provided by Italy.

131. 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 together with NATO and with the participation of all EU Member States.

XVII. Cooperation with International Organisations, Mediterranean Partners and Third States

Cooperation with International Organisations

EU-UN

132. EU-UN cooperation continues to be an important component of ESDP. In June 2007 the EU and UN agreed a Joint Statement on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management, which builds on the 2003 Joint UN-EU Declaration. The Joint Statement is being progressively implemented through a series of concrete recommendations approved by the PSC, inter alia in the fields of reinforced dialogue (including regular consultation between senior UN officials and the PSC), SSR, African peace-keeping capabilities, and the multidimensional aspects of peace-keeping
133. Close cooperation between the EU and the UN in crisis management has continued, in particular on: Chad, where the two Secretaries-General have established an Arrangement on cooperation between EUFOR Tchad/RCA and the UN mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) dealing in particular with mutual support; the DRC, where EUSEC/RDC and EUPOL/RDC have continued to cooperate successfully with MONUC; and Kosovo, where an ESDP civilian mission is planned to take over a number of the tasks hitherto performed by UNMIK.

EU-NATO

134. Coordination and cooperation efforts between the SG/HR and NATO SG and cooperation on the ground between the EU and NATO with regard to theatres where the two organisations are engaged, in particular Kosovo and Afghanistan, have continued. EU-NATO coordination, including on strategic level, needs to be further strengthened, in order to enhance the overall effectiveness of the efforts of the two organisations and further develop their strategic partnership in crisis management, whilst respecting the decision making autonomy of each organisation.
135. Aspects of EU-NATO cooperation and the need for a pragmatic approach were also discussed by Ministers in February 2008 in Brdo (Slovenia) and in May 2008 in Brussels, particularly regarding in-theatre cooperation in Kosovo and Afghanistan and the need for solid arrangements.
136. Regarding operation ALTHEA, EU-NATO cooperation in the context of the "Berlin Plus" arrangements has continued to work smoothly and efficiently both in Brussels and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As for the continued dialogue between EU and NATO, PSC and NAC have exchanged information on Operation ALTHEA and NATO HQ Sarajevo. Regular meetings have also taken place between the SG/HR and the NATO SG as well as between EU and NATO staffs.
137. Cooperation has been facilitated through the permanent EU Cell at SHAPE and the NATO permanent liaison team at the EU Military Staff in accordance with their Terms of Reference.

138. The Council reaffirmed the need for continued cooperation between EU and NATO 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 the document "Considérations sur le groupe UE-OTAN des capacités militaires" which was made available to NATO on the basis of transparency and reciprocity and noted 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. As a result preparatory work in the appropriate EU working parties was reinforced and information on a number of new relevant capability related issues of interest to both the EU and NATO could be exchanged with, on the EU side, a strong participation from EDA experts. The EU-NATO Capability Group had an initial exchange of views on the need to improve the availability of European helicopters. Discussion will continue based on further work, respectively in the EU, including the EDA for the benefit of all its participating Member States, and in NATO.

EU-AU and Sub-Regional Organisations and Strengthening African Capabilities

139. In the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted in December 2007 during the EU/Africa Lisbon Summit, and its first Action Plan (2008-2010), the implementation of the peace and security partnership has started.
140. The new EU delegation to the AU in Addis Ababa was set up on the ground in January 2008 . This delegation is in the process of being staffed with political, military and civilian expertise. The European Union Special Representative/Head of delegation to the African Union, Koen Vervaeke, will inter alia. offer advice and provide support to the building up of the African Union's crisis management capabilities.

141. The SG/HR Special Advisor for the African Peacekeeping Capabilities, Pierre-Michel Joana, was appointed on 3 March 2008 with the main objective to assist the SG/HR in promoting and implementing the EU involvement to support the building of African Peacekeeping Capabilities, in the ESDP framework and in reference to the Joint EU/Africa Strategy. Activities will be coordinated with international actors, inter alia the United Nations, NATO, the United States, Canada, China, Brasil and Japan.
142. According to the Action Plan with proposals for the implementation of the EU concept for Strengthening African Capabilities of May 2007, EURO RECAMP will be a two-year programme of strategic-level training activities to be provided to African partners, culminating in a Command Post Exercise (CPX). EURO RECAMP has been designated by the African Union (AU) as the vehicle to support the training and operationalisation of the African Standby Force by 2010 and will cover both the military and civilian components of crisis management. In January, discussions were held in Addis Ababa with the African Union and the framework nation to prepare the main elements of the EURO RECAMP cycle: timing, scenario, activities and financial issues.
143. In April, the Council General Secretariat and the Commission presented a joint paper to the PSC on EU support to African Training Centres. This project has the objective to draw up, together with the Commission of the African Union, a preliminary study of support for African training centres in the area of peace and security. The result should be a programme of activities setting out priorities, support measures, benchmarks, a timetable and arrangements for implementation, including EU funding foreseen under the Peace Facility (10th EDF). Support provided under this programme will cover the military and civilian aspects of crisis management in a balanced manner. Contacts have been held with EU Member States, other donors and international organisations to identify support activities by relevant actors.

EU-OSCE

144. The Presidency supported by the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship addressed issues for common cooperation at various levels and occasions. The EU-OSCE Ministerial Troika in Luxembourg on 28 April 2008 discussed e.g. EU-OSCE cooperation on EULEX Kosovo, the future of OMIK, electoral issues in the Southern Caucasus, conflict resolution in Nagorno-Karabakh, South Ossetia, Moldova (Transnistria) and gave an outlook on a possible EU-OSCE engagement on border issues in Afghanistan.
145. The EU-OSCE staff-to-staff discussions on 13 June 2008 further deepened discussions on specific technical issues and bring cooperation to a higher level of understanding thus strengthening coherence in the light of avoiding overlap and of fostering a seamless partnership in the field.

Cooperation with Mediterranean Partners

146. Dialogue between the EU and Mediterranean Partners continued to be pursued with a view to strengthening cooperation in the field of security and defence. The Euro-Mediterranean Senior Officials Meeting devoted to ESDP is scheduled for 23 June. Information meetings continued to be organised by the Secretariat for the benefit of Mediterranean Partners, including on ESDP operations and missions, as well as on the EU support to the development of the African capabilities. Some Mediterranean Partners continued to participate in ESDP operations and missions, as well as in the ESDP Orientation Courses under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College. The EU Institute for Security Studies (ISS) launched a series of seminars, together with the Mediterranean partners, with a view to deepen Euro-Mediterranean dialogue in the field of security and defence. The first such seminar was held on 14 March 2008 in Rabat in Morocco and focused on dialogue between the EU and its Mediterranean partners on ESDP.

Cooperation with Third States

147. The EU continued the close cooperation in ESDP crisis management with the non-EU European NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Canada, Russia, Ukraine and other third states. Non-EU European NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession to the EU met regularly with the PSC and the EUMC regarding the development of EU military operations and attended information meetings with the EUMS. Participants from the Third States, including from Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Japan, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Norway, Australia, Indonesia and the US attended the ESDP Orientation Courses on 18-22 February 2008 in Palermo organised by CASD (Rome) and on 2-6 June 2008 in Brussels organised by Slovenian MoD.
148. Several Third States continued to contribute to ESDP military operation EUFOR Althea in BiH (Albania, Argentina, Chile, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Switzerland, Turkey). Non-EU European NATO Members, countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Albania, Russia, Switzerland and Ukraine were kept informed on the operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA. At this stage, Albania and Russia made formal offers of contribution to this operation.

(a) Russia

149. In the framework of the Road Map for the Common Space on External Security, the EU and Russia made an important step forward on cooperation in crisis management. A close dialogue was held on the operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA, including through a visit of the Council Secretariat and OHQ delegation to Moscow. On 15 May PSC accepted a formal offer from Russia to contribute to this operation with a helicopter capability. Furthermore Russia indicated its readiness to negotiate a framework agreement in the area of crisis management.

(b) Ukraine

150. The EU and Ukraine continued building a close relationship and enhancing cooperation in foreign and security policy, including in crisis management. In line with the list of proposed activities in the field of ESDP between the EU and Ukraine in 2008, good contacts were pursued between the Ukrainian Chief of Defence and the Chairman of the EU Military Committee and a seminar on the Battlegroup concept, involving Ukrainian and EUMS experts, was scheduled for 10 June 2008. Further to its ratification by the Ukraine, the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine establishing a framework for the participation of Ukraine in the European Union crisis management operations entered into force on 1 May 2008. Cooperation in crisis management continued to be discussed in the context of the negotiation of the new Enhanced Agreement.

(c) United States of America

151. Dialogue and potential cooperation with the US across the full spectrum of crisis management has been further enhanced following joint EU-US agreement on a Work Plan in March 2008 which sets out a range of technical areas for cooperation. Expert-level contacts have already been initiated, facilitated by the US/EU security agreement allowing a greater exchange of information. This activity complements ongoing dialogue with the US on specific operations (EUSSR Guinea Bissau) and ESDP-related issues, including African peacekeeping capacity-building.

XVIII. Mandate for the Incoming Presidency

152. On the basis of this report and taking into account the European Security Strategy ¹, the future Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR) and in association with the Commission, is asked to continue work on developing the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), and in particular to:

- prepare decisions on current and future operations and missions, whether civilian or military, and to ensure their effective implementation;
- complete implementation of the guidelines for command and control of civilian operations;
- consolidate the European Union's capabilities for planning and conducting operations, and in particular to continue, on the basis of the report and recommendations of the SG/HR adopted by the General Affairs and External Relations Council in November 2007, the work on implementing the recommendations to remedy the shortcomings noted in the European Union Military Staff's ability to conduct planning at strategic level for EU-led operations, and invite the SG/HR to present an initial evaluation of the implementation of these recommendations in November 2008;
- continue to develop civilian capabilities in the framework of the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and ensure follow-up to the initiatives for the enhanced effectiveness of civilian crisis management, particularly with a view to the Ministerial Conference on improving civilian capabilities in November 2008;

¹ In the light of all developments which have taken place since 2003, in particular the experience drawn from ESDP missions, implementation of the European Security Strategy will, in accordance with the mandate of the European Council of December 2007, be examined by the SG/HR, in full association with the Commission and in close cooperation with the Member States, 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.

- continue implementation of an effective architecture for lessons learned, evaluation and best practices for civilian missions;
- continue the work on developing military capabilities in the context of the Headline Goal 2010 and, to that end, encourage the European Defence Agency (EDA), in close cooperation with the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) , to set in train work on the Capability Development Plan, which should lead to initial operational conclusions in July, while pursuing its further development;
- support the work of the EDA, in particular the development and implementation of the strategies already adopted (European defence technological and industrial base; European defence research and technology strategy, European armaments strategy) as well as the implementation of specific projects and programmes;
- enhance the European strategic air transport capability, developing a European air transport fleet concept and improving the deployability of helicopters in the framework of the EDA;
- strengthen the role of the European Union Satellite Centre;
- as regards civil-military coordination, pursue in particular the work aimed at identifying requirements for exchanging information. In particular, this work will make a useful contribution to developing a concept for European Union network enabled capabilities;
- carry out a review of the Athena financing mechanism;

- develop training relevant to the ESDP, comprising a civilian dimension as well as a military one, taking into account the activities of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), national activities and Community instruments; finalise, by November 2008, a report on the prospects for the ESDC, including a detailed analysis of training requirements;
- develop exchanges of officers in the context of their initial training;
- take forward work on the ESDP's contribution in the areas of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR), notably by enhancing the European Union's expertise in this area;
- continue to implement the European Union exercise programme, including successful conduct of the CME 08 exercise, and the start of planning for the CME 09 crisis management exercise and for the MILEX 09 military exercise;
- continue to promote consultation and cooperation with the United Nations on the basis of the Joint Statement on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management;
- strengthen the EU-NATO strategic partnership in crisis management; guarantee practical and effective coordination where the two organisations are engaged in the same theatre, particularly in Kosovo and Afghanistan; ensure coherent development of military capabilities where requirements overlap, including by exchanging information within the EU-NATO Capability Group; continue to implement the existing framework for cooperation between the European Union and NATO;

- continue to strengthen the strategic partnership between the European Union and Africa in the area of African conflict prevention, management and resolution capabilities on the basis of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted in December 2007; in particular, continue to support the setting-up of the African standby force, particularly in the framework of the EURO RECAMP programme;
 - maintain the European Union's commitment in the Western Balkans in the framework of existing and future activities;
 - maintain close cooperation and dialogue on crisis management issues with other key partners, in particular the OSCE, the States which are candidates for accession, the non-EU European NATO members, Canada, the United States, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine and the Mediterranean countries;
 - contribute to the implementation of the European conflict prevention programme;
 - continue to encourage effective implementation of the relevant provisions regarding human rights and gender equality in the context of the crisis management activities conducted under the ESDP, including the provisions of UN Security Council resolutions 1612 and 1325; special attention will be devoted to the issue of children affected by armed conflicts;
 - animate the dialogue and exchange of information with NGOs and civil society, in line with the review of the recommendations on cooperation with NGOs and civil society in the framework of civilian crisis management and conflict prevention;
 - enhance communication about the ESDP on the basis of the existing framework and discussions held hitherto, particularly with a view to enhancing the visibility of ESDP activities.
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