



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on CSDP

*3009th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 26 April 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Council highlights the role of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as an important and successful instrument of the European Union. The Treaty on the European Union constitutes the opening of a new chapter in the EU's security and defence policy, with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, supported by the European External Action Service (EEAS), to ensure increased effectiveness in CSDP and CFSP in general.
2. The EU is a unique and influential actor, able to cover all stages from conflict prevention, rapid response and crisis management to longer term support for development, with a wide range of instruments. In this regard, the Council looks forward to the establishment of the EEAS which will give a key contribution to the increased policy coherence in the overall framework of the EU's comprehensive approach in its foreign relations.
3. The CSDP missions and operations are framed within a coherent policy approach, operating on the ground as part of the EU family and building on necessary local ownership. In order to continue ensuring the added value and quality of CSDP missions and operations, the Council reiterates the need to continue improving effectiveness in providing personnel and equipment, to share best practices, and further develop common training and exercising activities.

P R E S S

II. CSDP MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

Western Balkans

EULEX KOSOVO

4. The Council noted the important and specific role played by the mission in strengthening the stability of the region in line with its European perspective. The Council reiterated its full support to the further efforts of EULEX to exercise its mandate throughout Kosovo.
5. The Council noted with satisfaction the results achieved so far by EULEX KOSOVO in a difficult environment assisting judicial and law enforcement agencies and in promoting rule of law reforms, including in the prosecution and adjudication of sensitive criminal cases.
6. The Council expressed its support for the mission's approach to intensify its efforts in the fight against organised crime and corruption. The Council further welcomed efforts to increase the mission's presence and activities in the north of Kosovo, alongside other EU actors, including through the establishment of the EU House in Mitrovica.
7. The Council reiterated that the implementation of the EULEX KOSOVO mandate will require a consistent commitment by all stakeholders. The Council underlined the importance of cooperation by regional partners with the mission and of the strong support by international partners. It also stressed the need for continued and genuine cooperation of Kosovo authorities with the mission. The Council expressed its continued support to EULEX Kosovo's efforts to enhance regional cooperation.

EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM)

8. The Council welcomed the efforts carried out by EUPM in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to achieve its mandate and noted the important role played by the mission as part of the overall EU efforts towards BiH European perspective. It welcomed the refocusing of the mission's mandate on the support to the fight against organised crime and corruption as well as results achieved so far in this area.

Operation ALTHEA

9. The Council welcomed Operation Althea's continued important contribution to the EU's comprehensive efforts in BiH. The Council recalled its Conclusions of 25 January 2010.
10. The Council welcomed progress with the implementation of the Operation's new capacity-building and training tasks, which would contribute to strengthening local ownership and capacity. It also reiterated the importance of Member States continuing to provide the necessary resources for the ongoing Operation's executive role.

South Caucasus

EUMM Georgia

11. The Council welcomed the continued efforts of the EUMM in implementing its mandate. The EUMM has made and continues to make significant contributions in the area of stabilisation and normalisation of the situation in Georgia. First of all through its monitoring activities and by promoting communication between the parties via the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM).
12. The Council reiterated its call on all sides to fully implement the Six-Point Agreement and subsequent implementing measures to participate constructively in the Geneva talks and increase their efforts to mitigate the consequences of the conflict for the local population. While expressing its continued commitment to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as to the principal of non-use of force, the Council reiterated its support for the full implementation of the EUMM's country-wide mandate, including access to the de-facto entities.
13. While acknowledging that progress on confidence building has taken place, the Council called on all actors on the ground to pursue their efforts on confidence building including as regards IDP return. The Council also noted the Georgian government's new strategy for engagement with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and called on all parties to seek opportunities to improve the lives and free movement of people on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Line. Ensuring free movement across the ABL is a key to confidence building.

Asia

EUPOL Afghanistan

14. The Council welcomed the strategic reform efforts of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN and its continuous work in strengthening the Afghan police and rule of law sector. The Council recognises the importance of EUPOL Afghanistan becoming the coordinator for the development of two pillars of the Afghan National Police, namely the Afghan Civilian Police and the Afghan Anticrime Police as requested by the Afghan Minister of the Interior. Sustainable civilian policing structures are a crucial element of the transition strategy agreed upon in the London Conference.
15. The Council welcomed ongoing work in preparing EUPOL Afghanistan's extension and, in that context, a possible adaptation of its mandate. The Council also welcomed the HR's intention to keep the mission under review, while ensuring its continuity and effectiveness.
16. The Council welcomed the continued progress made by EUPOL AFGHANISTAN at strategic, operational and tactical levels in line with its strategic objectives. The Council acknowledged the progress and expansion of the City Police Projects in building effective city police forces throughout the country. The Council also welcomed the emphasis of the mission on close coordination of its activities with other EU instruments and key partners, especially the recently activated cooperation with the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan.

Middle East

EUJUST LEX

17. The Council reaffirmed the strong commitment of the European Union to support the continued development of the rule of law in Iraq. The proposed activities for the mission over the next 2 years will also increase its presence and visibility in Iraq, as well as more specialized and alumni follow up training in country, building upon the success of recent pilot activities. The Council welcomed ongoing work in preparing EUJUST LEX's extension until June 2012, following a strategic review.

EUPOL COPPS

18. The Council welcomed the work carried out by EUPOL COPPS in the establishment of sustainable and effective policing arrangements and in the criminal justice sector. The Council looked forward to initiatives aimed at enhancing the mission's impact and contribution to the capacity building of the PA and to this end encouraged the further strengthening of the mission's action at the strategic, operational and field level in close cooperation with Palestinian counterparts and other stakeholders.

EUBAM RAFAH

19. The Council reaffirmed the political importance of EUBAM Rafah and its continued support for the mission. It welcomed in particular the maintenance of the mission's operational capability as well as its reactivation plan, which would ensure a rapid resumption of its full activities in case of re-opening of the Rafah Crossing Point. The Council welcomed ongoing work in preparing EUBAM Rafah's extension.

Africa

Operation ATALANTA/EUNAVFOR

20. The Council commended that ATALANTA continued to successfully contribute to maritime security off the coast of Somalia by protecting World Food Programme chartered vessels delivering aid to Somalia, vessels supplying critical shipments to the AU peace support operation in Somalia (AMISOM), and other vulnerable vessels. The Council also welcomed the growing participation of third states and looked forward to the participation of Ukraine and Montenegro in ATALANTA, further to that of Norway and Croatia.
21. The Council noted that a large majority of successful attacks by pirates took place in circumstances where recommended best practice had apparently been ignored. The international maritime community was therefore encouraged to further promote full adherence to that recommended practice.
22. The Council recalled the leading role taken by ATALANTA in the SHADE (Shared Awareness and Deconfliction) mechanism to promote coordination between the multinational, national and regional naval forces operating in the area. In this respect, the Council welcomed the Chinese decision to cooperate more closely with other naval forces in taking active responsibility on a rotating basis for the coordination of naval assets in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor in the Gulf of Aden.

23. The Council welcomed the crucial contributions being made by Kenya and the Republic of Seychelles, on the basis of transfer agreements with the EU, to the detention and prosecution of suspected pirates and armed robbers apprehended by ATALANTA. The Council asked that all efforts be made to support Kenya and the Seychelles in their important roles, and recalled the EU's readiness to step up the dialogue and continue to provide assistance.
24. The Council strongly encouraged ongoing work on the critical need to expand the international community's capacity for the prosecution of suspected pirates. It recalled its authorisation of negotiations for transfer agreements between the EU and further regional countries, namely Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. In this context, the Council highlighted the EU's support for Kenya's and Seychelles' judicial systems through the Instrument for Stability, as well as possible similar support for other States in the region. The Council welcomed the recent amendments in Tanzanian law, which provide for prosecution of suspected pirates.
25. The Council underlined the necessity to pursue efforts aiming at sustainable solutions for the prosecution of suspected pirates taking notably into account work carried out in the framework of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The Council took note of initiatives taken in the UN Security Council in this field.
26. The Council supported and encouraged continuing efforts by the International Maritime Organisation to suppress piracy and armed robbery at sea.
27. The Council encouraged the African Union and the regional organisations of East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean to take on an increasing sense of ownership of the piracy issue and looked forward to the reflection of this in regional programmes.
28. The Council requested the High Representative to prepare work for the potential further extension of Operation Atalanta beyond December 2010, for consideration by the Council in due time, taking into account operational requirements.

EUTM Somalia

29. The Council reiterated the European Union strong commitment to responding to the priority needs of the Somali people and stabilizing Somalia. As part of its comprehensive approach to the situation in Somalia, the EU supports the implementation of the Djibouti Agreement.
30. The EU and its Member States are supporting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) to begin rebuilding security and creating an environment in which the gains of peace can be realized. In this regard, the Council stressed the importance of TFG's ownership and welcomed the TFG's commitment to this process.
31. In this context, the Council commended the launch on 7 April 2010 of EUTM Somalia, a military training mission in Uganda. This mission will contribute to strengthening the Somali Security Forces through the provision of specific military training for 2000 Somali recruits up to and including platoon level, including appropriate modular and specialized training for officers and non commissioned officers.
32. The Council stressed that EUTM Somalia should be considered as part of a wider EU and international engagement towards Somalia. It expressed its satisfaction with the close cooperation that has been established with key partners in this common endeavour, in

particular with Uganda, the African Union, AMISOM, the United Nations and the United States. It welcomed the significant progress made so far, and underlined the importance of ensuring that the wider conditions continue to be put in place for the effective and sustainable contribution of EUTM trainees to the Somali security forces and the stabilisation of Somalia.

EUSEC RD Congo

33. The Council welcomed the work of EUSEC RD Congo and stressed that defence reform and good governance in the defence field remain key factors in creating conditions for lasting stability and development in the country.
34. The Council underlined the importance of EUSEC RD Congo's key tasks of providing advice and assistance for defence reform with the aim of implementing the Congolese revised reform plan for the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and to translate it into concrete actions. The Council highlighted the importance of political commitment and coordination by the Congolese authorities to take the reform process forward, and the role of the UN, in close cooperation with the Congolese authorities, on SSR.
35. The Council welcomed the end of the census process for the CNDP at the end of November 2009. It emphasised the need to continue work on integrating all former armed groups.
36. The Council underlined the importance of local Congolese ownership in the first instance and the overall EU engagement in DRC in preventing and addressing human rights violations; in the fight against sexual violence and in addressing children affected by armed conflict.

EUPOL RD Congo

37. The Council welcomed the work of EUPOL RD Congo in supporting the reform of the Congolese national police and its interaction with the justice sector, in particular recent positive results, such as the submission of the draft Organic Law for the Police to the Congolese National Assembly. The Council also noted the adoption of other significant documents such as the Police Action Plan and the important coordination work conducted by the Comité de Suivi de la Réforme de la Police (CSRFP).
38. The Council welcomed the work started by the mission antennas in Goma and Bukavu and the reinforced effort in the area of criminal investigation, including the fight against impunity and sexual violence.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau

39. The Council welcomed the work of EU SSR Guinea-Bissau in supporting local authorities to bring forward the reform process. Particular emphasis was given to finalising basic legislation underpinning the new security structures in the sectors of defence, police and justice.
40. The Council called for a comprehensive approach to future EU engagement in security sector reform. However, in light of recent events in Guinea-Bissau, engagement will depend on further political developments, including respect for democratic principles, human rights and rule of law allowing stability and progress on such reform.

III. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES AND THEMATIC ISSUES

Civilian Capabilities

41. Civilian capability planning and development progressed in accordance with the Guiding Lines for the second semester of 2009. In the run-up to the final report for the Civilian Headline Goal 2010, which is due for the second semester of 2010, the Council looked forward to the presentation, in the first semester of 2010, of the third progress report on the implementation of the Guiding Lines.
42. The Council stressed the importance of continuing efforts to match ambition with resources. In this respect, it welcomed the launch of the feasibility study on a possible establishment of a permanent warehousing solution to stock equipment for civilian missions. It also welcomed the progress made with the development of the Goalkeeper software environment to facilitate *inter alia* the recruitment and training of personnel for civilian missions, and recalled the need to finalise, implement and operationalise all Goalkeeper applications without delay.
43. The Council noted the continued need for missions to be appropriately staffed. It encouraged further practical steps at both EU and national level, including the adoption of national measures/strategies as appropriate, to ensure generation of the required capabilities, including in view of possible rapid deployment. Training at both EU and national level enhances the quality as well as the quantity of personnel to be potentially engaged in the CSDP missions. The Council looked forward to the implementation of the revised CRT Concept.

Cooperation between CSDP and JHA

44. The Council underlined the importance of further strengthening the coordination, exchange of information and cooperation between CSDP missions and all the relevant JHA actors. It recalled that several CSDP missions contribute to EU internal security by supporting the fight against transnational crime and by building capacities in the field of international legal cooperation. It noted the JHA initiatives stressing the potential for reinforced synergies with CSDP in West-Africa and other regions as well.

Civil-Military Capability Development

45. The Council welcomed ongoing work as well as the presentation of the related workplan to promote synergies between the EU civilian and military capability development. It looked forward to the further discussion and implementation of this workplan and underlined the importance of concentrating on the concrete delivery of capabilities leading to operational improvements.
46. The Council underlined that the PSC should continue to play a leading role in this work by giving guidance to the work related to synergies between the EU civil and military capability development and noted the importance of the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) in the work ahead. The CMPD will continue, within its area of responsibility, *inter alia* to foster and coordinate work on synergies between civilian and military capability development, including in helping identify dual needs.
47. The Council welcomed the ongoing work towards integrated maritime surveillance as a concrete example of the search for civil-military synergies. In this context, the Council noted that the final report of the Wise Pen Team on maritime surveillance in support of CSDP was presented to the European Defence Agency's Steering Board and the Military Committee and

invites the Commission to consider, as appropriate, its conclusions in the elaboration of the roadmap for the implementation of an Integrated Maritime Surveillance in the European Union, to be presented before the end of 2010.

Military Capabilities

Headline Goal 2010

48. The Council welcomed the work carried out in developing Member States' military capabilities and noted the Single Progress Report.
49. The Council welcomed the results of the continuous cooperative work of the EU Military Committee (EUMC) and the European Defence Agency (EDA) in the area of capability development, in particular on the update of the Capability Development Plan and lessons identified from operations.
50. The Council welcomed progress made in military concepts, notably the finalisation of the EUMC Interoperability Study. The Council noted with satisfaction progress in the area of Countering Improvised Explosive Devices which is essential for the security of forces deployed in CSDP operations. The Council looked forward to further progress in the EU's comprehensive approach to crisis management. It noted that taking into account both civilian and military aspects of crisis management was essential to progress in this area.
51. The Council welcomed the work aimed at reaching full operational capability of the EU Operations Wide Area Network, which connects with Brussels all EU Operation Headquarters, two of the EU Force Headquarters and the EU Satellite Centre, as well as those Member States who so wish.
52. The Council looked forward to further reflections on ways to foster the delivery of European capabilities beyond the 2010 horizon. This should include considerations on the need to increase synergy between the civilian and military EU capability development processes.

Rapid Response

53. The Council welcomed the agreement of the concept for the implementation of an EU Air Deployable Operating Base in the field of Air Rapid Response operations.
54. Welcoming the progress made so far in the work related to increasing flexibility and usability of EU Battlegroups in accordance with the guidelines agreed in November 2009, the Council recalled the need for increased cooperation between Battlegroups, and between Battlegroups and the Council General Secretariat, during the preparation phase as well as during and after the stand-by period, and encouraged all actors involved to take action to this aim.
55. The Council encouraged Member States to make new offers for Battlegroups from 2012 onwards and to fill in particular the vacant slot in the first Semester of 2012.

European Defence Agency

56. The Council welcomed the report by the Head of the European Defence Agency. It also welcomed the Agency's role to strive for improved defence capabilities in support of CSDP as set out in the new Treaty on the European Union.
57. The Council encouraged the Agency's ongoing efforts in support of CSDP capability development, underlining the particular importance of cooperation between Member States in view of increasing budgetary constraints, and noted the progress of work on the 2011-2013 workplan. The work on updating the Capability Development Plan and on the launching of new projects and initiatives, such as in the areas of Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices and pooling and sharing of capabilities, were welcomed by the Council.
58. The Council welcomed the work of the Wise Pen Team on Maritime Surveillance, notably in support of CSDP, and in this regard encouraged it to continue to provide input as foreseen in support of continuing work on the integration of Maritime Surveillance. The Council recalled that these efforts are part of work towards an Integrated Maritime Policy.
59. The Council emphasised the importance of seeking civil-military synergies in the research and technology area. In this regard, it welcomed progress made in the field of synergies between civilian security, space and defence-related research programmes, and welcomed the launching of the Agency's first contribution to the European Framework Cooperation in the area of CBRN Protection.
60. The Council noted with satisfaction the commencement of negotiations between the EDA and the European Space Agency for an Administrative Arrangement, with a view to its approval by the Council in November 2010.
61. The continued work on a Security of Information Agreement between the EU and OCCAR and an Administrative Arrangement between EDA and OCCAR was welcomed by the Council as a major step forward in support of a seamless transfer of capability requirements into cooperative procurement programmes. The Council invited all parties to enhance efforts to conclude the Security of Information Agreement and the Administrative Arrangement as soon as possible.
62. The Council encouraged the further enhancement of the relationship between EDA and the LoI Framework Agreement.
63. The Council encouraged the Agency to investigate its potential involvement in the implementation of the Single European Sky (SES) regulations in order to identify benefits and cost-savings for military aviation in the SES.
64. The Council reaffirmed its support for the Agency's work on the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, emphasising its full support for a stronger involvement of small and medium- sized enterprises in the supply chain. It also encouraged efforts towards an open, transparent and efficient European Defence Equipment Market, including follow up of the Political Declaration on Level Playing Field, and work on security of supply. The Council encouraged the work of the Agency towards developing and sustaining key European industrial capabilities in the field of aeronautical capabilities, in particular for unmanned aerial systems.

Security Sector Reform

65. Welcoming the progress made so far, the Council stressed the importance of achieving the operationalisation of the SSR pool of experts in due time, in order to strengthen the EU's capacity in Security Sector Reform.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

66. The Council underlined the importance of considering, in the planning of future civilian and military CSDP missions, the appropriateness and feasibility of including in the mandate of the missions issues on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Gender and Human Rights

67. The Council recalled the importance of a continued and systematic consideration of human rights, gender and children affected by armed conflict aspects from the early planning of CSDP missions and operations, during their conduct, as well as in the subsequent lessons identified processes. The Council welcomed the progress made, in particular the seminar held in March under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency with a special focus on women in uniform, work carried out by deployed gender and human rights advisors, as well as heads of missions and operation commanders, to ensure that these aspects are mainstreamed, setting up of a specific website in the GSC portal. This work needs to be further pursued, including in the related area of Protection of Civilians, where new impetus has been provided by the adoption of UNSCR 1894. It recalled the particular relevance of gender and human rights aspects in the run up to the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in the autumn.

Conflict Prevention, Mediation and Dialogue

68. The Council emphasised the need to continue the implementation of the concept on strengthening the EU mediation and dialogue capacities, adopted in 2009, in order to develop a more systematic and coordinated approach and to strengthen EU capacity in this area. The Council called for preparatory steps to be taken in order to initiate the envisaged review of the process.
69. The Council emphasised the EU's engagement in the area of conflict prevention as set out in the Göteborg Programme of 2001 and noted the work taken forward. It welcomed the intention to take stock of a decade's progress in this field.

Training

European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

70. The Council noted with satisfaction the training record of the ESDC since its establishment in 2005, and recalled the College's key role in CSDP related training.
71. Against this background, the Council recalled the need to increase the resources available to the College's Permanent Secretariat, as defined in the ESDC Steering Committee recommendations which it approved in December 2008.
72. The Council welcomed the progress on the European initiative on the exchange of young officers during their initial training inspired by Erasmus as presented by the High

Representative in her special report on the initiative, including the framework regarding the initiative to be followed by participating Member States when appropriate.

Lessons learned

73. In December 2009, the Council adopted a first Annual Lessons Report on civilian CSDP missions, identifying key lessons, analysing trends and proposing implementation of the lessons over the coming year. The Council emphasised the importance of the lessons identified process as a tool which provides necessary and valuable input to the civilian capability development effort including training.
74. The Council underlined the importance of the identification and implementation of horizontal/thematic lessons across the military and civilian fields in CSDP. Thematic lessons reports and reviewed concepts will be produced to enhance EU efforts at comprehensive crisis management as part of the CFSP.

Exercises

CME 09

75. The Council recognised that the exercise provided an excellent opportunity to test EU structures and procedures, including notably the EU Operations Centre, under conditions of rapid response. Co-location of civilian and military experts in the CPCC and the EU Operations Centre very much facilitated this process. The Council underlined the importance of implementing the lessons identified during CME 09 in due course.

MILEX

76. The Council welcomed ongoing preparations for the conduct in June of MILEX 10 and for MILEX 11.

EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

77. The Council welcomed the valuable support the EUSC provides to the ongoing EU civilian and military missions.
78. The Council encouraged the facilitated access of the EUSC to governmental imagery, as it is already the case with regard to HELIOS II imagery, and looked forward to the use of Cosmo-Skymed and Sar-Lupe imagery in the near future.
79. The Council welcomed ongoing work related to the role of the EUSC in Global Monitoring Environment Security (GMES), which will be further explored.
80. The Council took note with satisfaction of the progress made in cooperation with the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), which should be further pursued as appropriate.
81. The Council noted the discussion ongoing on financial aspects of EUSC support to EU civilian missions.

IV. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

82. The Council noted that in accordance with Article 36 of the Treaty on European Union, the European Parliament was regularly informed of CFSP/CSDP developments.
83. The Council welcomed the continued interest shown by the European Parliament as well as National parliaments of the Member States in ongoing CSDP missions, operations and activities. It underlined the importance of interparliamentary co-operation also in the field of CSDP and recalled Protocol 1, annexed to the Lisbon Treaty, on the role of national parliaments in the European Union.

V. PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE SECURITY

EU-UN

84. The Council emphasised the importance of EU-UN co-operation and coordination in crisis management, and underlined the need for their further strengthening, particularly in operational theatres where both the EU and the UN are involved, notably Somalia, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau and Kosovo. Continued exchange of know-how and lessons learned offers the potential for deepening this cooperation. The Council took note of the progress achieved in implementing the 2007 Joint Statement of EU-UN Cooperation in Crisis Management, including the regular meetings of the EU-UN Steering Committee, giving new impetus to coordination and cooperation in a number of geographic and thematic areas.
85. The Council emphasised the importance of enhancing the visibility of the EU positions and contributions on crisis management in all the relevant UN fora.
86. The Council welcomed the New Horizon initiative launched by the UN Secretariat and reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the reform of UN peacekeeping.
87. The Council also expressed its support to the review process of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.

EU-NATO

88. The Council recalled the objective of strengthening the EU-NATO strategic partnership in crisis management, in a spirit of mutual reinforcement and respect for their decision-making autonomy. The Council welcomed the efforts by the High Representative and the NATO Secretary General to foster progress in this area. In this context, the Council stressed that the continuing support of EU Member States and NATO Allies is of great importance. It encouraged further implementation of the EU proposals for concrete measures to reinforce EU-NATO relations which were transmitted to the NATO Secretary General in February 2010, and in this context efforts to promote transparency, coherence and inclusiveness between the EU and NATO as appropriate. It particularly stressed the importance of efficient operational cooperation between the EU and NATO concerning theatres in which the two organisations are both committed and the conclusion of agreements on solid and effective arrangements between EUPOL Afghanistan and ISAF as well as EULEX Kosovo and KFOR. As demonstrated by Operation ALTHEA, Berlin plus arrangements have proven to be effective and efficient.

89. The Council underlined the need for continued cooperation with NATO regarding the development of military capabilities. In this regard, it welcomed efforts to make the best use of the EU-NATO Capability Group, within the agreed framework, where requirements overlap. It has contributed towards transparency between the two organisations in accordance with the Capability Development Mechanism (CDM). With participation of senior policy-makers from the capitals, as envisaged by the CDM, the Capability Group discussed issues regarding respective efforts to draw benefit from multinational cooperation, particularly in the field of logistics. In preparation of the Capability Group meetings, all Member States discussed in detail the agenda items and were briefed accordingly after these meetings. As recognised by the Council, in order to continue improving coherence, mutually reinforcing development of military capabilities and transparency, further efforts are needed to ensure effective working methods of the Capability Group, while inclusiveness through the participation of all the EU Member States would further facilitate exchange of information in the field of military capabilities.
90. The Council welcomed the expanded meetings between the HR and the NATO Secretary General, involving the strategic operational expertise of both sides. It emphasised the value reciprocal briefings of the PSC and the NAC, as well as the EUMC and the NATO MC, on operational issues of common interest. Regular staff to staff meetings on issues of common interest are important. PSC will continue being regularly informed.
91. The Council stressed that there is a potential for increased transparency, efficiency and coherence between the distinct CSDP Capability Development and NATO Defence Planning processes, in order to better inform sovereign national decisions on planning and the delivery of improved military capabilities. It welcomed continuing work, including at staff to staff level, to establish a common Information Gathering Tool available to all Member States, and a "common language" for capability development within the EU. It noted that the overlapping capability shortfalls that emerge from the two distinct processes in the EU and NATO should be addressed in a coherent manner. In this context, the Council underlined the fundamental principles of the EU's integrity and autonomy of decision making, of a distinct EU process and of inclusiveness and participation of all Member States.

EU-AU Cooperation - Strengthening African Capabilities

92. The Council welcomed progress in the "Peace and security" partnership between the EU and Africa and called for continued efforts in this regard. It welcomed the outcome of the Akosombo Conference in December 2009.
93. The Council welcomed the validation of the report of the AU/EU experts study as part of the first set of measures of the planned African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) roadmap, during the workshop on support to African Training centres held in Nairobi in February 2010. The Council welcomed the progress achieved in AMANI AFRICA Programme and expressed its wish that the Command Post Exercise (CPX) be held before October 2010. The Council also welcomed the progress in the work to support African mediation capabilities.
94. The Council welcomed enhancement of cooperation between the AU situation room and the EU SITCEN and the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), including technical support for the development of the Continental Early Warning System.

95. The Council stressed the need for the continued implementation of the joint EU-Africa Strategy and its Action Plan. In this regard, the Council also recalled the importance of close cooperation with the UN, including through the triangular EU-UN-AU dialogue for the strengthening of African capabilities and work on the predictable and sustainable funding for AU-led peace support operations undertaken.

Cooperation with Third States

96. The Council stressed the importance of engaging Third States in the field of CSDP. It commended their valuable involvement in CSDP missions and operations and encouraged further contributions in the future. At present, 14 Third States (*Albania, Angola, Canada, Chile, Croatia, FYROM, Iceland, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the US*) are contributing to 7 ongoing missions and operations.¹
97. The Council welcomed the important cooperation and coordination of a wide range of Third States with EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, and the potential for the development of further contacts with Third States, by building on these positive experiences (notably with China, India, Japan and Russia as well as with the US).
98. The Council noted the value of regular consultations with non-EU European NATO members and other countries that are candidates for accession to the EU, as well as informal gatherings between the members of the PSC, the non-EU members of NATO and other countries that are candidates for accession to the EU.
99. The Council welcomed the unique cooperation that is being established in the context of EUTM Somalia, with the United States, the African Union, Uganda and the TFG of Somalia, allowing for a task sharing to prepare a complete cycle of selection, training and reintegration of members of the Somali Security Forces.
100. The Council welcomed the continued dialogue and cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean partners in the CSDP field.
101. The Council commended the excellent cooperation with Canada in support of the AMANI Africa cycle for the development of African capabilities.
102. The Council noted the High Representative's recommendation to authorise the opening of negotiations of framework participation agreements with additional Third States. Such framework agreements would facilitate their future involvement in CSDP missions and operations. To date such agreements have been concluded with Canada, Iceland, Norway, Turkey and Ukraine. Framework participation agreements with Russia and Switzerland remain under negotiation.

¹ EUPM and ALTHEA in BiH, EULEX Kosovo, EUPOL COPPS, EUPOL Afghanistan, EUPOL RD Congo and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA.

Western European Union

103. The Council noted the announcement of the decision by the States Parties to the Modified Brussels Treaty (Statement of 31 March 2010) to terminate the Treaty. It acknowledged the important contribution of the WEU in the development of the European security and defence architecture, including the substantial role of the interparliamentary WEU Assembly in developing a European culture on security and defence.
104. The Council encouraged as appropriate the enhancement of interparliamentary dialogue on CSDP issues, including with candidates for EU accession and other interested states.

Contacts with civil society / NGOs

105. The Council recalled the importance of co-operation with NGOs and civil society as a means to improve the impact of the CSDP missions and operations and encouraged its continuation both in Brussels and in the field, including through regular contacts.

VI. OTHER OPERATIONAL CSDP-RELATED ACTIVITIES

106. The Council recognised the relevance to CSDP of other EU operational activities. It particularly noted the EU funded activities including overall action of the Instrument for Stability. The Council welcomed notably the activities carried out by EUBAM for the Republic of Moldova and to Ukraine as well as the activities of the EUSR for the South Caucasus Border Support Team."
