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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 10 December 2007.

Presidency Report on ESDP - December 2007

1. In line with the mandate defined by the European Council in June 2007, the Presidency hereby submits this report on ESDP.
2. In presenting this report, the Presidency has noted that Denmark has drawn attention to Protocol No 5 on the position of Denmark, which is annexed to the Amsterdam Treaty.

I. Operational activities**Africa****Operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA**

3. The EU strongly reaffirmed its support to the United Nations' (UN) and the African Union's (AU) ongoing efforts to solving the conflict in Darfur within a comprehensive and regional approach.
4. Following the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007), which has approved the deployment in Chad and the Central African Republic of a multidimensional presence and authorised the EU to provide its military element, the EU decided to take action on 15 October 2007, through Council Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP, by further planning a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (**EUFOR Tchad/RCA**) in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy, for a period of one year from the date that its initial operational capability is declared. EUFOR Tchad/RCA is neutral, multinational and independent .
5. The planning of the operation is taking place in full coordination with the UN and in consultation with African partners, and its deployment has been welcomed by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic.

6. The deployment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA is a concrete expression of the EU's comprehensive commitment to actively work for the improvement of the security situation in Eastern Chad and North-Eastern Central African Republic, by contributing to the protection of refugees and IDPs, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping to create the conditions for displaced people to return to their places of origin voluntarily, as well as contributing to ensure MINURCAT's security and freedom to operate.
7. The intention of the Commission is to contribute substantially to the UN program for the establishment of the UN Police force, and, following the requests made by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic, to implement transitional programs of recovery and rehabilitation covering reconciliation orientated activities, support to the voluntary return of IDPs and to the rehabilitation in their places of origin, and support to local governance.

EU civilian-military supporting action to the African Union Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS II)

8. The EU has continued its **civilian-military supporting action to the African Union (AU) Mission (AMIS)** in the Darfur region of Sudan. The EU has given military assistance in the form of technical support and expertise, throughout the AMIS command structure, along with financial and logistic support, including in the area of strategic air transport in cooperation with NATO through a joint airlift coordination cell in Addis Abeba. The EU also provides the Vice-President of the Cease-Fire Commission. AMIS running costs, moreover, are met out of the Africa Peace Facility (as well as by a number of other donors, including various EU Member States).
9. EU police officers continued to play a key role in building AMIS civilian policing capacity through support, advice and training for the AMIS police chain of command and police officers on the ground. The EU is also continuing its support for the development of AU policing capacity and the establishment of a police unit within the AU Commission in Addis Abeba.

10. The EU has worked closely with the UN and the AU to support implementing the UN Heavy Support Package with the perspective of transitioning to the full AU/UN hybrid mission (UNAMID). The EU has also maintained close and effective co-ordination with institutional and bilateral donors and worked closely and effectively with the UN, as well as with NATO, regarding military support in theatre.
11. The EU support to AMIS and to the build-up of UNAMID within the framework of AMIS is expected to continue until the transfer of authority from AMIS to UNAMID, as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2007 (as stated in UNSCR 1769). It is envisaged that from this date, the EU supporting action will come to an end.
12. The EU Special Representative for Sudan has continued to play a key role in co-ordinating the EU's support to the AU with other donors and actors in the region and continues to provide support to the AU and the UN in their efforts to take forward the political process in Darfur.

Democratic Republic of Congo

13. ESDP missions, together with European Community activities, have contributed to the overall efforts in support of Security Sector Reform (SSR) process in the Democratic Republic of Congo and to the preparation for a possible SSR Round Table through the provision of expertise to the different domains (Police, Justice and Defence).

a. EUSEC RD Congo

14. Whilst the tense situation in the East of the country has continued to require Government's attention, work has nevertheless proceeded in the field of Security Sector Reform. The mission **EUSEC RD Congo** has contributed, along with other international partners of Congolese defence authorities, to the definition of a future Armed Forces model for the DRC.
15. Although the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process remains stalled since December 2006, EUSEC RD Congo efforts aiming at ensuring an accurate census through biometric means of the Armed Forces personnel have continued.

16. In addition to increasing political monitoring and pressure, the need to invest in public diplomacy is recognised to better convey to the public the role of the EU and of the International Community in support of SSR in DRC.
17. The chain-of-payments project has been working with the Congolese Ministry of Defence to reorganise its financial administrative system. The project has achieved significant progress, notably the better delivery of salaries to the military, and should be complete by the end of the current mandate in June 2008. An audit of most components of the Armed Forces has been conducted and communicated to the Congolese authorities.

b. EUPOL RD Congo

18. On 1 July 2007, the new EU ESDP SSR Police Mission and its interface with justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo (EUPOL RD Congo), took over from EUPOL Kinshasa (which was successfully concluded on 30 June 2007). It aims at assisting the Congolese authorities in reforming and restructuring the “Police Nationale Congolaise” (PNC) and in improving the overall functioning of the criminal justice system, through a justice interface. The mission has since then significantly contributed to laying out the preparatory steps in the PNC reform process.
19. The mission jointly with the relevant European Commission’s Services, including EC Delegation, has supported the creation of the CSRP (Comité de Suivi de la Réforme de la Police), and supports its full implementation; the CSRP is a mixed local/international coordination committee in charge of the reform of the police, which is now working on a number of critical areas, such as police regulations, training policies and Human Resources management.
20. The mission is now almost fully staffed and three EUPOL RD Congo experts (in the field of security, human rights/children in armed conflict, and press and public information) are working as well in support of EUSEC RD Congo.

Guinea Bissau

21. Following an initial joint Council-Commission information gathering mission in May 2007 to **Guinea Bissau**, consideration was given to a possible option for an ESDP advice and assistance mission in support of the national Security Sector Reform process.
22. The Council considered that such ESDP action would be appropriate, in coherence with and complementary to European Development Fund and other Community activity, and in December 2007 agreed a General Concept for an ESDP mission. It is proposed that the mission would consist of senior military and civilian advisers in the fields of armed forces, police and justice plus support staff.
23. The objective of the mission will be to provide advice and assistance on reform of the security sector in Guinea Bissau to the local authorities in order to contribute to creating the conditions for implementation of the National SSR Strategy, in close cooperation with other EU, international and bilateral actors, and with a view to facilitating subsequent donor engagement.
24. Planning is ongoing, with a view to the mission deploying in Spring 2008 for a maximum period of 12 months, subject to the invitation of the Guinea Bissau authorities. Once the conditions have been created, successful implementation of SSR will depend on the commitment of funds and resources by the international community and the commitment of the local authorities to promote SSR implementation. Any subsequent requirement for ESDP engagement in SSR implementation remains to be determined.

Asia

EUPOL Afghanistan

25. Following Council approval of the Concept of Operations on 3 May 2007 and the adoption of the Joint Action on 30 May 2007, the EU ESDP police mission for Afghanistan, EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, was launched on 15 June 2007.

26. The strategic objective of the mission is to contribute to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements that will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system and in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights.
27. The mission is working towards a joint overall strategy of the international community in police reform, including through the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB), and help coordinate participating donors' police reform efforts. It is supporting the Government of Afghanistan in coherently implementing the strategy, through monitoring, mentoring, advising and training at the central, regional and provincial levels.
28. Deployment so far is to the capital Kabul, the Northern regional command in Mazar-e-Sharif, and Kunduz, Badakhstan and Ghowr provinces. The deployment plan is that the mission will realise its full deployment by mid-March 2008. EUPOL Afghanistan has already taken on a key role, working closely with the EUSR and international and Afghan counterparts to restructure the police reform architecture in Afghanistan. Mentors and advisers are deployed at the central level with Ministry of Interior and police authority key officials.

Western Balkans

Operation Althea

29. Following the successful reconfiguration of Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) the EU-led force (EUFOR) now numbers some 2500 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves. Its operational focus remains the maintenance of a safe and secure environment and the transfer of Joint Military Affairs (JMA) tasks to relevant national authorities. Elements of the European Gendarmerie Force have participated in the Integrated Police Unit of EUFOR since November 2007. The mandate of the operation was extended for a further 12-month period by the UN Security Council on 21 November 2007 (UNSCR 1785).

30. The Council reviewed Operation ALTHEA on 10 December and welcomed the positive contribution of the operation to the safe and secure environment in BiH. The Council approved the Secretary General/High Representative's recommendations on Operation ALTHEA in the light of the advice received from relevant Council bodies. While noting that the security situation remains stable, the Council follows with concern recent political developments in BiH. The Council reiterated that EUFOR continues to provide reassurance and remains ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country. The Council stressed that the EU remained actively committed to BiH, including through Operation ALTHEA, and agreed that, as part of the EU's overall engagement in the country, the EU-led military presence would remain there for as long as necessary.
31. Coherence of EU action in BiH - involving all EU actors including the Commission and EU Heads of Mission - remains a priority. EUFOR has maintained a close working relationship, including on operational matters, with its EU partners and other international actors. Co-operation with the EUPM in supporting the fight against organised crime, on the basis of Common Operational Guidelines, is well established and has proved effective. The EU Force Commander, the EUSR and the Head of EUPM continue to consult each regularly prior to taking action. This co-operation and co-ordination has been enshrined in the mandates (Joint Actions) of the relevant actors. Co-operation with NATO continues to work well in respect of Operation ALTHEA.

EUPM

32. The EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM) promoted and supported intensively the reform of the police. However, BiH was not yet able to make significant progress in police restructuring. Recalling its conclusions of 15 October 2007, the Council reiterated that **police reform** remains the key priority and one of the four necessary conditions for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

33. Despite this difficult political situation, EUPM has progressed in developing sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership, including in its work to support the fight against organised crime. With its targeted approach based on a thorough crime situation analysis, EUPM contributed to a further consolidation of institution- and capacity-building, in particular of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) and Border Police.
34. Considering that, at the end of EUPM's second mandate, the desired end-state will not have been fully reached, the Council has decided to extend the Mission for another two years until the 31st December 2009. A continuation of current activities is foreseen in view of a possible involvement of European Community assistance as of 2010.
35. Through its various instruments, including ESDP, the EU has contributed to security sector reform in Bosnia-and-Herzegovina.

EUPT Kosovo/Possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo

36. The EU has continued its preparations for a possible civilian ESDP Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. The mandate of the **EU Planning Team for Kosovo (EUPT Kosovo)**, set up in April 2006, has been amended and extended by the Council until 31st March 2008.
37. Since the adoption by the Council of a crisis management concept for the possible ESDP mission in Kosovo on 11 December 2006, planning has proceeded with the development of a draft concept of operations. The Head of the possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo was designated and is fully engaged in the planning process.
38. Cooperation with all relevant international stakeholders in Kosovo has continued on the ground and in Brussels. Preparatory work for procuring the necessary equipment, including taking over essential equipment from the UN, has been undertaken. In addition, preparatory work for the force generation has been taken forward, with the identification of the senior staff of the possible ESDP mission and the launch of an informal and indicative call for contribution for the rest of the staff. Training activities have taken place in Brussels and in Pristina with the support of the European Community. Contacts have continued with third-states that could contribute to the possible ESDP mission.

Eastern Europe and South Caucasus

EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia

39. The mandate of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus was extended until 29 February 2008, prolonging also the activities of the **EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia**. The team continues its work on assisting in the development of a strategy for reform of the Georgian Border Guard service, which is in line with the EU-Georgia ENP Action Plan Priority Area 4 and its work in the field, including in developing Standard Operating Procedures at HQ, regional and sector level. Additionally, the team is assisting in the drafting of joint procedures (Customs-Border Police) for cooperation and coordination of border crossing point operations in accordance with the European Concept for Integrated Border Management.

EUSR Border Team and EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine

40. The **Border Team of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova** continued its activities in contributing to enhancement of cooperation at the Transnistrian segment of the border between Moldova and Ukraine. The activities of the Border Team have been prolonged until 29 February 2008, following the extension of the mandate of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova.
41. The work of the Border Team of the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova took place in close collaboration with the **EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine)**, which is a European Commission activity, staffed to a large extent by seconded experts from EU Member States. EUBAM promotes co-ordinated action of and assists the governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in areas involving border, customs and fiscal matters, including through monitoring activities.

42. EUBAM is based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the Governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Memorandum of Understanding establishing EUBAM was extended for an additional period of 24 months starting from 1 December 2007. The Head of EUBAM is also carrying out the function of Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR for the Republic of Moldova.

Middle East

EUPOL COPPS

43. The **EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories** (EUPOL COPPS) was launched on 1 January 2006 with a three-year mandate in order to assist the Palestinian Civilian Police (PCP) in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements under Palestinian ownership in accordance with best international standards.
44. Following the establishment of a Palestinian Government under Salaam Fayyad, the EU agreed in July 2007 to the Mission's expansion and re-engagement and in October approved the EUPOL COPPS Action Plan Outline. The mission has now taken on more police and rule of law experts. It has delivered public order training in Jericho, assisted by experts from EUBAM Rafah, and has enabled the provision of equipment to the PCP including computers. The mission has also completed an audit of the PCP which sets out a clear picture of the PCP's urgent requirements. The Head of Mission mandate was extended until the end of 2008. The ability of the mission to carry out its mandate is however seriously affected by the lack of accreditation from Israel.

EUBAM Rafah

45. The **EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point** (EUBAM Rafah) provided its last third-party presence at the Rafah Crossing point (RCP) on 9 June 2007. After the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point on 14 June 2007, as a consequence of the takeover of Gaza by Hamas, the mission suspended its operations, while preserving its operational ability to redeploy at short notice.

46. The Council reiterated its commitment to the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah), to the Agreements concluded and to the region, in particular the Gaza population. It underlined the importance of the implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access by all parties. The Mission is currently exploring options to assist the capacity-building of the Palestinian Authority customs and border police. A new assessment of the operational situation of the Mission is foreseen in January 2008.

EUJUST LEX

47. The EU's Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX) is aiming at strengthening the rule of law in Iraq and promoting human rights through providing training courses and work-experience secondments in EU member States for senior Iraqi police, judicial and penitentiary personnel in management and criminal investigation.

48. EUJUST LEX has provided training to 1409 Iraqi judges, prosecutors, senior members of the police force and senior penitentiary personnel. 58 courses and 9 work placement secondments have taken place so far. EUJUST LEX is ensuring Iraqi ownership and works closely with Iraqi interlocutors in order to make sure that it delivers training which corresponds to Iraqi needs.

49. The mandate of EUJUST LEX, which will continue its work in partnership with Iraqi Authorities and other international actors, has been extended until 30th June 2009.

50. A Head of Mission's Special Report on Evaluation Activities confirmed that the mission's objectives are being fulfilled.

II. Planning and conduct of civilian missions and military operations

51. As of July 2007, new arrangements were implemented for command and control (C2) of EU civilian operations in crisis management as agreed by Council in June 2007. A **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)** has been established within the Council Secretariat. The acting Director of CPCC has been appointed as the Civilian Operations Commander for certain civilian ESDP operations through the respective amended Joint Actions and has taken overall responsibility for the duty of care of personnel in ESDP civilian crisis management missions. The **Directorate for Civilian Crisis Management (DGE IX)** has continued to deal with political, strategic and horizontal issues related to civilian crisis management, including lesson's learned and training. It is also responsible for the Crisis Management Concept in operational planning that sets out the political objectives and mandate of a future operation.
52. **The Civil-Military** Cell continued to promote the development of the “watchkeeping” capability in the Council General Secretariat, in line with the Hampton Court Follow on. It also continued to plan and prioritise its strategic contingency planning and to promote a comprehensive civil-military approach to crisis management.
53. The **EU Operations Centre**, which reached operational capability on 1 January 2007, has been successfully activated for the first time during MILEX 07 in June 2007. The initial lessons learned were considered for subsequent identification of possible actions to be taken for improving this capability, taking into account the impact of the activation of the Operations Centre on the daily work of the EUMS, the weaknesses of the EU Operations Centre manning model and the SG/HR report on the military strategic planning capacity of the EUMS, as appropriate.
- A first group of civilian augmentees were selected and trained for the Operations Centre.

54. The Council welcomed the report by the SG/HR on the **EU Military Staff's ability to conduct planning at the strategic level** for EU-led operations, as requested by the Council in May 2007, and approved the recommendations to implement, as a package, the four measures, together with the actions identified in the military advice. It also agreed to revert to this issue as soon as practicable during the course of 2008, including the need for any additional personnel, on the basis of an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the measures and actions in responding to the Council request to the SG/HR.

III. Lessons Learned

55. A number of recommendations were made by the **EUPOL Kinshasa** Head of Mission (HoM) in his Final Report presented in late October. Member States have expressed their support to the recommendations made by the HoM and have underlined the need to consider them in preparing an overall Lessons Learned process for Civilian ESDP missions, notably taking due account of logistics and procurement issues, as agreed by the Political and Security Committee (PSC) on 13 November.
56. The implementation of consolidated lessons learned from EUFOR RD Congo has been ongoing, and many of the lessons have been applied in the planning of subsequent operations, including EUFOR Tchad/RCA.

IV. Capabilities

a. Development of European civilian capabilities

Civilian Headline Goal 2008 and New Civilian Headline Goal 2010

57. In accordance with the task given by the Council to the Portuguese Presidency in June 2007, the **CHG 2008 was successfully concluded**. The CHG 2008 has fulfilled its intended objectives and provided a sound basis for future capability development efforts for civilian crisis management under ESDP. Among its achievements are the creation of a set of scenarios corresponding to possible future challenges for civilian ESDP, the advance appreciation of actual ESDP mission requirements, the production of a comprehensive reference list of needed civilian capabilities, the creation of a tool facilitating mission planning and recruitment, the production of recommendations and guidelines on the raising of personnel, and the increased awareness of civilian ESDP within Member States and potential contributors to ESDP action. A Final Report on CHG 2008 was approved by the Council on 19 November 2007.
58. Under the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 (CHG 2008), important work was done in the field of civilian ESDP capability development. However, as ESDP ventures further afield and diversifies in its tasks and missions, a growing need develops for crisis management capabilities to allow the EU to respond to the whole spectrum of crisis management tasks, using all available means in a coherent and co-ordinated way. Building upon the results achieved and lessons learned, EU Ministers have adopted a **new Civilian Headline Goal** on 19 November, **namely the CHG 2010**.

59. The CHG 2010 aims at ensuring that the EU is able to conduct crisis management activities, in line with the European Security Strategy, by deploying appropriate civilian capabilities in a timely fashion. Among its main objectives are the improvement of the quality of civilian resources, the enhancement of their availability, and the achievement of synergies with the military ESDP capabilities, with the European Community and with third pillar actors, as well as to enhance or strengthen co-ordination and co-operation with external actors, as appropriate. CHG 2010 will be carried out in line with the Civilian ESDP capability planning process as agreed by Council.

Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference 2007

60. The EU Ministers, convened on 19 November 2007 in the **Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference**, adopted a Declaration whereby they approved the Final Report on Civilian Headline Goal 2008, and agreed the new Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and a Civilian ESDP capability planning process

CRT concepts and deployment

61. The implementation of the CRT concept was continued and decisions taken on its further refinement on the basis of an inventory of the CRT pool of experts. A new call for CRT nominations was launched to complete the pool with 30 new experts to be trained in 2008.
62. Since the establishment of the CRT pool, a total of 7 Calls for CRT Deployment have been launched leading to 5 CRT deployments. In the second half of 2007, CRT experts were deployed to support the ongoing mission EUPOL Afghanistan and a CRT team was deployed in support to EUPM in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Framework Contracts

63. In the field of procurement, the first framework contract tender processes were launched through publication of a tender notice for armoured vehicles, and of forecast notices for (a) normal vehicles and (b) Communication and Information Technology equipment and services.

Rapid availability of financing

64. Lack of rapid availability of financing has been identified as a problem for the operational capacity of civilian crisis management operations in the start-up phase. The follow-up of the meeting of Heads of state or government at Hampton Court has continued through the adoption of detailed procedures for having recourse to the Preparatory measures budget line of the CFSP *inter alia* to assess the operational requirements, to provide for rapid initial deployment of resources or to establish the conditions on the ground for the launching of civilian crisis management operations.

b. Development of European military capabilities

65. Within the Headline Goal 2010 (HLG 2010) process, ten Member States had offered new contributions aimed at mitigating capability shortfalls identified during the preparation of the Progress Catalogue 2007. The **Force Catalogue 2007 (FC07)**, which presents Member States' contributions for 2010 against the required capabilities as defined in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 (RC 05), was subsequently revised. The revised FC07 was noted by the Council on 15 October 07, which also approved its transmission to NATO for information purposes.
66. The **Progress Catalogue 2007 (PC07)** was approved by the Council on 19 November. This catalogue is based on the requirements set in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 and on Member States' scrutinised contributions gathered in the FC 07. In addition to a broad confirmation of the findings of the Helsinki Progress Catalogue (HPC03), it provides a structured evaluation of the identified capability shortfalls, both in qualitative and quantitative terms. It sets out potential operational risks to ESDP operations. From an initial orientation based on the impact of the capability shortfalls, recommendations have been derived, including the need to take additional information into consideration. PC07 concludes that the EU can conduct the full spectrum of military ESDP operations within the parameters of the Strategic Planning Assumptions, with different levels of risk caused by the recognised shortfalls.

67. The Council encouraged Member States to undertake the appropriate actions in order to address the identified capability shortfalls, including through good use of opportunities for co-operation aiming at improving the EU's capability to act, and the European Defence Agency (EDA) to continue being actively involved in capability development in close co-operation with the EU Military Committee (EUMC), including through the establishment of concrete projects and programmes.
68. The PC07 and follow-on work on further prioritisation of capability shortfalls will provide significant inputs for the **Capability Development Plan (CDP)**, which Member States are elaborating through the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the EU Military Committee (EUMC). The CDP should be used as a tool to orientate the Member States in their work on investments in the capabilities area.
69. **A new capability planning process is currently not required**, as the European Security Strategy has remained unchanged and the EU military level of ambition has not been modified. All efforts should be focused on the current process.
70. The Study Report on possibilities and options to support the EU capability development process with **Operational Analysis (OA)** Tools and Techniques was presented to the EUMC on 25 July. The EUMC will revert to the issue and to the study on **Information Gathering (IG)** tools once options on work to be conducted after PC07 have been addressed and once a decision on OA tools and techniques has been taken by the PSC.
71. The transfer of the **European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP)** Project Groups (PGs) within the European Defence Agency processes has been completed. Three ECAP PG's remained active : Air Missile Defence, Headquarters and Special Operations Forces. They were mandated to complete their deliverables by the end of 2007. Following an ECAP PG Review Report presented on 13 June, the EUMC will review ECAP PGs status in the framework of shortfall management resulting from PC 07.

72. Based on a tri-Presidency (Germany-Portugal-Slovenia) Food-for-Thought paper, work has started on a possible revision of the **EU Military Rapid Response Concept**, from a joint perspective and taking into account the comprehensive approach to crisis management, bearing in mind the EU's level of ambition as laid down in the Headline Goal 2010 process. This review shall be concluded in 2008. It will take due account of the Battlegroup Concept and the ongoing work on the Maritime Rapid Response and the Air Rapid Response Concepts. The aforementioned concepts have to be coherent with the overarching EU Military Rapid Response Concept.
73. Pursuant to the findings of the EU Maritime Dimension Study, a draft **Maritime Rapid Response Concept** was approved by the EUMC on 15 November. The Concept aims at facilitating the rapid generation of EU maritime assets and capabilities.
74. A draft **Air Rapid Response Concept** is under elaboration, with a view to generating a military effective, credible and coherent rapid response air capability within the framework of HLG 2010. This concept is based on the Rapid Response Air Initiative, which was noted by the EUMC in October. When agreed the EUMS will be invited to present timelines for the implementation of the concept, conduct a validation exercise (CPX) and develop the EUFOR Deployable Operating Base (DOB) implementing doctrine, based on the Concept.
75. Since 1 January 2007, two **Battlegroups** have been on stand-by permanently. At the six-monthly Battlegroups Co-ordination Conference (BGCC) on 11 October, Member States have committed the required Battlegroup packages up to and including the first semester of 2010. The period is further consolidated by confirmation of the EL-BG-RO-CY Battlegroup for the first semester of 2009. New offers at next BGCC in April 2008 are necessary to fill vacant slots, in particular in the second semester of 2010.
76. Following the meeting of the Chiefs of Defence in May, EUMC launched work on the improvement of operational effectiveness of EU BGs through standardisation in support of MS-led BG preparatory activities, without reviewing the EU BG Concept. A methodology and a roadmap for this work were agreed by EUMC in October. In addition, the EUMC reached a common understanding on the meaning of the standby period.

77. The main elements of the recommendations of the **Global Approach on Deployability (GAD)** Study, aimed at identifying the needs for the co-ordination, interaction, roles and responsibilities of transportation enablers, have been completed. The findings are shared with NATO, in line with the CDM, to ensure transparency and coherence and to progress areas of common interest. The EUMS EU Movement Planning Cell received its new establishment of staff members during July/August 2007 and, following their ADAMS courses in December 2007, will be able to undertake their tasks as envisaged by the GAD study.

c. European Defence Agency

78. The Head of the Agency's report on the European Defence Agency's activities confirmed that the Agency continued to deliver substantial results from an agenda addressing the immediate and the longer-term goals.

79. The Agency made substantial progress on the development and implementation of long-term strategies:

- a Capability Development Plan, as mentioned above, aiming at identifying priorities for capability improvement and on bringing out opportunities to pool resources and to cooperate. The methodology and the roadmap for developing the CDP were approved on 28 June 2007, and results – in the form of actionable conclusions – are expected before summer 2008. Work on respective Strands of the CDP has continued, with the active involvement of all stakeholders.
- a European Defence Technological and Industrial Basis (DTIB) strategy, whose implementation is underway with the endorsement last September by the NADs' Steering Board of a number of roadmaps setting clear milestones and a first review of progress by the Steering Board in Ministers' formation next May;
- a European Defence Research and Technology (R&T) strategy covering both Ends (including the definition of key technologies for Europe) and Means, to be developed on the basis of a Framework supported by the Steering Board.

80. Furthermore, the Steering Board agreed on enablers for enhancing cooperation, which will be used to underpin the Armaments strategy to develop in 2008.
81. The Agency also delivered achievements concerning a number of policies and initiatives, in particular:
- generally successful implementation of the Code of Conduct on defence procurement, as assessed by the Steering Board in NADs formation last September. The Electronic Bulletin Board is functioning well and the number and volume of contracts advertised keep increasing. However the Council noted that too few cross-border contracts had been awarded and called for the situation to improve;
 - positive implementation of the (first) Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme - on Force Protection - with the first tranche of projects approved by the Management Committee and the first contracts to be signed in December this year;
 - adoption by the Steering Board in NADs' formation of a Code of Conduct for promoting transparency and encouraging coordination of investments in the field of defence test and evaluation facilities, in order to improve cooperation among participating Member States and reduce overcapacities;
 - progress made in the area of Software Defined Radio (SDR), Network Enabled Capabilities (with the selection of a Wise Pen tasked to produce a draft NEC Concept by the next Summer); Operational Intelligence; 21st Century Soldier System (agreement on a new category B (opt-in) programme for "Combat Equipment for the Dismounted Soldier", with 9 contributing Member States); strategic transport (on-going work on the identification of solutions for improving the future EU capability); Information Exchange Requirements;
 - approval by the Steering Board of collective benchmarks regarding equipment procurement and defence research technology, including collaborative expenditures.
 - Agency's efforts to seek synergies between civilian and military activities, in consultation and coordination with the European Commission especially in the areas of SDR, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (on-going work on the Insertion in General Air Traffic by 2012), and Maritime Surveillance.

V. Civil-Military Co-ordination

82. In July 2007 the PSC noted the work on the identification of Information Exchange Requirements (IER) including a Roadmap as well as a Global Overview aiming at defining operational requirements for exchanging information between all entities, both civilian and military, that may interact in support of ESDP operations with a view to a comprehensive approach. This work will continue, and will need to be undertaken in co-ordination with work on ESDP Network Enabled Capabilities (NEC), for consideration by the Council bodies, including the PSC.

VI. EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

83. The **EU Satellite Centre** continued to provide products and services in support of ESDP related activities. This covered support for ongoing and planned EU operations and missions, in particular in relation to EU actions in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic, the Balkans region, contingency planning, as well as in relation to a possible EU involvement in support of the Security Sector Reform in Guinea Bissau. The EUSC has continued its close co-operation with the UN. It has taken an active role in the framework of the European initiative of Global Monitoring for Environment and Security.

VII. EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

84. The **EU Institute for Security Studies** continued its work with regard to research, debate and analysis on security issues. The Institute formed a focal point for academic exchange, networking and monitoring of the European security agenda as well as a policy-orientated think tank supplying European policy-makers with analysis, advice and suggestions. The Institute has organised seminars regarding Darfur on 9 July 2007, the Western Balkans on 20 July 2007, the Middle East on 30 October in Washington, the Annual Conference on 22 and 23 November, as well as a brainstorming session on the future of EU defence and NATO on 11 December 2007.

VIII. ESDP and Space

85. The work on the actions identified in the Initial Road Map for the "European Space Policy: ESDP and Space" has continued within the framework set by the European Space Policy.
86. In the aftermath of the EUISS seminar on the security dimension of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) the General Council Secretariat has worked together with the European Commission on the identification of end-user communities for future security applications and on specific generic requirements to fulfil security missions.

IX. Security and Development

The Council emphasised that ESDP operations are an essential tool of the EU wide array of policies and instruments and therefore of its capacity to be a global actor. Accordingly, ESDP operations are increasingly planned and implemented in a coherent way with EU development and co-operation policies and actions in pursuit of common strategic objectives.

87. There cannot be sustainable development without peace and security, and there will be no sustainable peace without development and poverty eradication as the 2003 European Security Strategy and the 2005 European Consensus on Development put it.
88. The adoption by the Council in November 2007 of Conclusions on the nexus between security and development is a major contribution to the coherence of EU external action, whilst recognising that the responsibilities and roles of development and security actors are complementary but remain specific.
89. The Council has identified initial actions in the areas of strategic planning, SSR, partnerships with regional and sub regional organisations, and humanitarian aid and security. In the area of partnerships, the work undertaken in the framework of the EU-Africa Partnership may be seen as a way forward for a coherent and holistic approach, based on the principle of ownership, while pursuing respective security priorities.

90. Lessons learned from past experiences and concrete steps in a few specific countries where ESDP missions and operations and/or CFSP, Community and bilateral Member States activities are being planned or conducted are important in this context. Possible examples are: Chad, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Afghanistan. Further examples of a coherent holistic EU approach could be considered from other regions and/or countries, namely the Western Balkans.
91. The first joint meeting of Defence and Development Ministers and the conclusions on the security and development nexus should be seen as the start of the process that must be continued, sustained and further extended to other important aspects of the nexus. The Commission and the Council General Secretariat, in close cooperation with the Member States, have been invited to take the work on security and development forward, including the elaboration of an action plan, under the guidance of future Presidencies.

X. Human Rights Issues and Gender Issues

92. Human Rights issues and Gender Issues continued to be systematically included in the planning and conduct of all ESDP operations, and subsequently evaluated in the lessons learned process. The implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1612 and relevant EU documents on Human Rights issues and Gender issues is stressed, including by the publication of the compilation or relevant EU documents on mainstreaming (doc. 11359/07 EXT01), the development of a generic pocket card for ESDP personnel as well as further training efforts, particularly with a view to achieving more concrete progress in this field on the ground.
93. Closer cooperation on these issues with EUSRs is necessary, whose mandates now contain specific provisions to address Human Rights issues and Gender issues. In this context, the invitation to Member States to nominate more female candidates for CFSP/ESDP senior management positions, including for EUSRs as well as for ESDP Missions in general, in order to facilitate an improved gender balance, is much welcomed.

XI. Conflict Prevention

94. The European Union continued its efforts in the area of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts and the European Security Strategy. Efforts were pursued to further strengthen its instruments both from a conceptual point of view and across the wide spectrum of its conflict prevention activities, with a view to enhancing coherence between the EU's various external policy instruments as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States.
95. The annual report on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention, including implementation of the EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, adopted by the European Council in June 2007, recommended that the European Union "examine possible ways of taking account of Member States' relevant activities in the field of conflict prevention". To this end, a questionnaire aimed at assisting this process and contributing to a broad overview of Member States' activities and capabilities in this area has been adopted by the PSC on 10 October, 2007 and it was sent to the Member States. The results of the questionnaire will serve as an additional basis for drafting a first assessment of the preparedness of Member States in the field of conflict prevention.
96. A Conference "**From early warning to early action - Developing the EU's Response to Crisis and longer term Threats**" was organised by the European Commission and took place on 12-13 November 2007. Its aim was to assess the latest developments in EU crisis management, crisis preparedness and conflict prevention. The Conference also looked into how to improve the EU's crisis response capabilities/capacities, addressed longer-term transregional threats.
97. A Conference on "Transatlantic co-operation in civilian crisis management: Best practices in building capabilities and planning for action" organised by the Crisis Management Initiative with the support of the Portuguese Presidency was held in Brussels on 8 November 2007.
98. A workshop on "Conflict Prevention – Creating a Leading Role for the European Union: Cooperation with Regional Organisations" organised by the Madariaga European Foundation and the Folke Bernadotte Academy in partnership with the Portuguese Presidency was held in Brussels on 22 November 2007.

XII. Co-operation with Non-Governmental Organisations

99. To enhance the dialogue between NGOs and the members of Council preparatory bodies, the Presidency regularly invited **NGO representatives** to give **briefings to members of the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management** in accordance with the Recommendations for **Enhancing Co-operation with NGOs and CSOs**. Representatives from a variety of international NGOs (such as the International Centre for Transitional Justice, Saferworld, Interpeace, and **Nonviolent Peaceforce**) presented briefings on Afghanistan, Kosovo, Guinea-Bissau and **Civilian Peacekeeping**. Particular care was taken to ensure that **NGO input would be given during the early stages of the planning phase for civilian ESDP missions**.

XIII. EU training relevant to ESDP

100. As part of the EU's annual training management cycle, a review of the training requirements relevant to ESDP has been conducted and will be agreed soon by the PSC. This document identifies the training needs in the diplomatic, civilian, police as well as military field in particular at strategic and at operational levels. It also identifies specific training requirements related to civil-military and inter-pillar co-ordination and in the context of EU's relations with third states and international organisations.
101. Based on this, the EU Training Programme in the field of ESDP for the years 2008 to 2010 is being prepared including the training activities offered by the Member States, the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the European Police College (CEPOL), the European Diplomatic Programme (EDP) and the European Community.

102. As regards **training for civilian crisis management**, the Council Secretariat and EUPT Kosovo continued preparatory work for training activities with a view to a possible ESDP mission in Kosovo. In order to assist EU Member States, a Training Conference was organised on 10-11 October 2007 in Pristina for training providers of EU Member States and also third States. It focused on co-ordination of pre-mission training activities and ensuring the link between the pre-deployment training and the in-mission induction training. It should be noted that an overall assessment of the training needs for the personnel to be deployed under the possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo was financed by the European Community. From 22 to 24 October 2007, identified senior key personnel for the possible ESDP mission in Kosovo attended a training session in Brussels.
103. The **European Security and Defence College (ESDC)** started its third academic year with the conduct of the ESDP High Level Course 2007/2008 aiming at promoting a common understanding of ESDP as an essential part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. 70 civilian and military senior officials from Member States and EU Institutions dealing with strategic aspects in the field of ESDP participate in this course. Course modules (each one week) took place in Brussels, Lisbon and Prague/Brno and two other modules will take place in March and April next year in Tartu (Baltic Defence College) and Ljubljana.
104. Two ESDP Orientation Courses have been conducted successfully in Brussels. One took place in September hosted by Romania. Apart from Member States and EU Institutions, nationals of candidate states, third states as well as representatives of international organisations were also invited to participate in this course. A second course took place in November co-organised by Cyprus, France, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and supported by Italy. This course had a particular focus on security in the Mediterranean area. Countries participating in the Barcelona Process and from the Western Balkans participated.
105. A first official ESDP Course for Press and Public Information Staff was successfully conducted as a two-day course in November, hosted by Ireland, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of ESDP among national spokespersons/PIOs from different ministries and potential spokespersons/PIOs for ESDP missions and operations.

106. A report of the ESDC Steering Committee on the activities and perspectives of the College is being prepared to be forwarded to the Council before the end of 2007 with a view to a revision of the "Council Joint Action establishing the European Security and Defence College".
107. A website has been developed to provide a central source of information on the activities of the ESDC. In addition, this website will serve, inter alia, as a platform for exchanging information on ESDC courses and other ESDP related courses. The ESDC website will be accessible via a link on the official EU Council website (www.consilium.europa.eu). It is expected to be available to the public by mid December 2007.
108. The European **Community project on training for civilian aspects** of crisis management ended in June 2007. The European Commission is currently undertaking the necessary steps to ensure appropriate follow-up activities in 2007/2008.

XIV. Exercises

109. Preparatory work was undertaken, including the Initial Planning and the Main Planning meetings held on 2 July and 17 to 20 December respectively, for the EU crisis management exercise to be held in 2008 (CME 08). This will be the first time that the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability will be participating in an exercise. This activity will provide a good opportunity to exercise and evaluate a range of EU crisis management structures, procedures and consultations arrangements in the context of an EU crisis management operation without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities, with a view to improving the EU capacity, including the EU decision-making process, to manage crises with civilian and military instruments, including their co-ordination within the EU. The OHQ for this exercise will be at Mont Valérien and will be provided by France.
110. The Council welcomed the successful conduct of the EU Military Exercise 2007 (MILEX 07). This second EU military exercise took place from 7 to 15 June 2007 and focused mainly on the interaction between the EU Operations Centre in Brussels and the EU Force Headquarters in Enköping, provided by Sweden. The EU operations centre was successfully activated during this exercise. Initial lessons identified were included in the Final Exercise Report.

111. Preparatory work was undertaken for the EU Military Exercise to be held in 2008 (MILEX 08), focusing on military aspects of crisis management at the military strategic and operational level for an envisaged EU-led crisis management operation without recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities. The OHQ for this exercise will be at Rome, and will be provided by Italy, while Spain will offer the FHQ.

XV. ESDP and Africa, including ESDP support to strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

112. With the aim of full operationalisation of various components within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including the African Stand-By Force (ASF), and following the adoption in May 2007 by the Council of an Action Plan with proposals for the implementation of the EU Concept for Strengthening African Capabilities, the PSC approved in July 2007 the general objectives set out in the proposal **EURO RECAMP** and requested France, as framework nation, to start its implementation in close consultation with the African partners.

113. A first round of discussions was held with the African Union in Addis Abeba. The focus was on participation by the African partners in the implementation of the EU Action Plan, in particular in the EURO RECAMP cycle, and on support by the EU to the African Centres of Excellence.

114. In October, a second round of discussions with the African Union, which was held in close coordination with the United Nations and the Regional Economic Organisations, led to the decision in principle by the AU to include the EURO RECAMP cycle, as a key element, in the ASF Training Plan for the next two years, along with other national programmes that may be offered in Africa and in Europe by EU Member States, in support of the development of the ASF.

115. The Joint EU/Africa Strategy as well as its Action Plan were adopted in Lisbon in December 2007 during the EU/Africa Summit, establishing a new approach of political partnership between equals and ways of jointly addressing global challenges that affect both continents. They included sections on peace and security.

116. In this context, at the joint initiative of the Presidency and the ISS, a "High-Level Conference on ESDP, Crisis Prevention and Conflict Resolution in Africa" was held in Lisbon on 23 October, which produced some recommendations. The requirement for a better definition of specific capacities that need to be developed at the level of the African Peace and Security Architecture was stressed, as was the fact that this should be done both at the political, operational and managerial levels, with an emphasis on the latter. The consideration of a quadrilateral partnership among AU, UN, SRO's and EU, in order to provide a comprehensive "wider picture", was also recommended.
117. Also in the same context, the Presidency held in Lisbon, on the 13th and 14th of September, an informal meeting of Security Policy Directors of the Member States Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which focused on the analysis of ESDP aspects of the EU-Africa relationship, including the strengthening of African capabilities in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

XVI. Co-operation with International Organisations, Mediterranean Partners and Third States

EU-NATO

118. The EU and NATO have continued to further develop their **strategic partnership in crisis management**. Aspects of EU-NATO co-operation and the need for a pragmatic approach were also discussed by the Ministers on 19 November, particularly regarding in-theatre co-operation in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

119. Regarding operation ALTHEA, EU-NATO co-operation in the context of the "Berlin Plus" arrangements has continued to work smoothly and efficiently both in Brussels and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, EU and NATO have continued to co-operate, including through a joint airlift co-ordination cell in Addis Abeba, to ensure effective support for the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS). As for the continued dialogue between EU and NATO, PSC - NAC have exchanged information on Operation ALTHEA; other meetings have also taken place between the SG/HR and the NATO SG as well as between EU and NATO staffs.
120. Co-operation has been facilitated through the permanent EU Cell at SHAPE and the NATO permanent liaison team at the EU Military Staff.
121. Concerning military capability development, the EU-NATO Capability Group continued to provide a forum for exchanging information on the development of military capabilities in the EU and NATO where requirements overlap. All Member States were informed of these issues. At the initiative of the Presidency, the PSC concluded work on finding ways to improve the modalities of functioning of the Capability Group, while noting that the participation of all EU Member States to the Group would further facilitate the exchange of information between the two organisations in the domain of military capabilities.

EU-UN

122. EU-UN co-operation continues to be an important component of ESDP. In June 2007 the EU and UN agreed a Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management, which builds on the 2003 Joint UN-EU Declaration, and which is being progressively implemented. High-level dialogue has continued, and there are regular exchanges at technical level. In the first of what will become an annual event, EU-UN education days, EU-UN experts briefed each other on their respective crisis management planning structures and processes.

123. At the operational level, close co-operation between the EU and the UN has continued, in particular regarding: support to the AU Mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the ongoing implementation of the UN support package to AMIS and transition to a hybrid mission (UNAMID); EUFOR Tchad/RCA; the DRC, where EUSEC/RDC and EUPOL/RDC co-operate with MONUC; and Kosovo, where a possible ESDP civilian mission is intended to take over a number of the tasks currently performed by UNMIK.
124. Following a mandate by PSC, the Council Secretariat presented a paper, prepared in collaboration with the European Commission, for the implementation of the Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management. The paper includes a number of concrete proposals to put in practice the Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management, *inter alia* in the fields of reinforced dialogue, SSR, African peace-keeping capabilities, the multidimensional aspects of peace-keeping, exchanges between the UN and the EU Situation Centres/Crisis Rooms, and co-operation with the EU Satellite Centre and the EC Joint Research Centre.
125. The EU also strengthened its co-operation with the UN on crisis management, building in particular on experience gained so far and, in this context, welcomed recent high-level visits and dialogue of UN senior officials with the PSC, CivCom and PMG.

EU-AU

126. Cooperation with African partners in the framework of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership continued to be pursued including on security aspects. In this context, the EU-Africa Summit took place in Lisbon on 8 and 9 December.
127. The setting-up of a EU delegation to the African Union in Addis Abeba will be an important step to support the EU-AU partnership, including on strengthening the AU's crisis management capabilities, as well as the EU's comprehensive policy objectives in relation with the AU.

EU-OSCE

128. The Portuguese EU Presidency supported actively the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship's efforts to collaborate on various regional issues, such as the Balkans, the Republic of Moldova and the Southern Caucasus. Staff-to-staff discussions and regular information exchanges have continued with regard to Kosovo. On 3 October the PSC Troika EU-OSCE met to have an exchange of views on these issues. The EU participated in several OSCE-sponsored events, such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw from 24 September - 5 October 2007.
129. Preparations for the EU - OSCE Ministerial Troika on 19 November 2007 in Brussels included discussion on the draft declaration on EU-OSCE cooperation ahead of the annual OSCE Ministerial meeting (29-30 November 2007, Madrid).

Mediterranean Partners

130. Dialogue between the EU and Mediterranean Partners continued to be pursued with a view to strengthening co-operation in the field of security and defence. The Euro-Mediterranean Senior Officials Meeting devoted to ESDP took place on 26 November. Information meetings also continued to be organised by the Secretariat for the benefit of Mediterranean Partners, including on EU exercises, operations and EU-UN co-operation. Some Mediterranean Partners continued to participate in ESDP-Operations. Under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College, a special edition of the ESDP Orientation Course with a specific focus on ESDP and security in the Mediterranean area (Barcelona process' new challenges, instability and threats to security in the Mediterranean area, transnational communities and security in the Mediterranean area) was co-organised by Cyprus, France, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, with the support of Italy, in Brussels from 5 to 9 November, *inter alia*, involving participants from Mediterranean partners.
131. Ministers of Defence at their informal meeting in Évora on 28-29 September discussed the co-operation with Mediterranean partners on ESDP in a joint session with Ministers of Defence from Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and were briefed on the multilateral co-operation in the framework of the "Initiative 5+5", which brings together the Maghreb countries and five EU Mediterranean countries.

Third States

132. The EU continued the close co-operation in ESDP crisis management with non-EU European NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Canada, Russia, Ukraine and other third states. Participants from the third states, including from Canada, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Japan, Russia and Turkey attended the ESDP Orientation Course on 24-28 September. Participants from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia attended the ESDP Orientation Course on 5-9 November focusing on ESDP and security in the Mediterranean area.
133. Several Third states continued to contribute to ESDP military operation EUFOR Althea in BiH (Albania, Chile, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey). Non-EU European NATO Members, countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Switzerland, Albania and Ukraine were invited to the Force Generation process for the upcoming operation EUFOR Tchad/CAR. At this stage, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey declared that they considered positively their potential contributions.
134. Third states have continued to provide valuable contributions the ESDP civilian missions EUPM (Canada, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine) and EU support to AMIS II (Canada). A number of third countries have already accepted the invitation to participate in EUPOL Afghanistan (Canada, Croatia, Norway and New Zealand), while others have indicated their willingness to do so in the future. The EU envisages to invite several third states to participate to the possible ESDP mission in Kosovo.

a) Russia

135. In the framework of the Road Map for the Common Space on External Security, the dialogue with Russia on co-operation in crisis management was continued. On 8 November a session of expert talks took place between the Council Secretariat and the Russian Ministry of Defence, to share lessons learned from recent operations/exercises and discuss practical aspects of possible areas of EU-Russia cooperation in crisis management.

b) Ukraine

136. The EU and Ukraine continued building a close relationship and enhancing co-operation in foreign and security policy, including in crisis management, which was also stressed at their Summit on 14 September 2007. Good contacts were pursued between the Ukrainian Chief of Defence and the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, who visited Kiev on 10-12 October. On 15 November, the Ukrainian Chief of Defence met, at an informal session, with the EU Military Committee at the level of Chiefs of Defence. A list of proposed activities in the field of ESDP between the EU and Ukraine has been established for the year 2008. Co-operation in crisis management was also discussed in the first five rounds of negotiation of the new Enhanced Agreement.

c) United States of America

137. The close dialogue and cooperation with the US in the context of ESDP crisis management continued and was enhanced. Building on the EU and US joint assessment on crisis management in the April 2007 EU/US Summit Declaration, a Draft Work Plan EU-US Technical Dialogue and Increased Cooperation in Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention was approved in December.

138. Furthermore, the US have indicated their intention to participate in the possible ESDP Mission in Kosovo.

XIX. Mandate for the Incoming Presidency

139. On the basis of the present report and taking into account the European Security Strategy, the incoming Presidency, assisted by the Secretary General/High Representative and in association with the Commission, is invited to continue work on developing the European Security and Defence Policy, and in particular:

- To prepare and ensure effective implementation of decisions related to present and future operations and missions, both civilian and military.

- To work on the new Civilian Headline Goal 2010, and start implementing its objectives, taking into account the ministerial declaration of the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference in November 2007.
- To continue work on further improving the effectiveness of civilian crisis management in particular with respect to mission support, notably procurement and (rapid) financing.
- To establish an architecture for evaluation, lessons learned and best practices of civilian ESDP operations.
- To support and foster continued implementation of the new Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for the EU Civilian Crisis Management Operations, including the watchkeeping capability.
- To continue work on the development of military capabilities in the framework of the Headline Goal 2010, focusing on recommendations from the Progress Catalogue 07 in conjunction with the Capability Development Plan.
- Based on the Tri – Presidency paper, continue the work on a possible revision of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept.
- On the basis of the report and recommendations by Secretary General/High Representative which were adopted by the GAERC in November 2007, foster work on implementing the recommendations addressing shortcomings in the EUMS’s ability to conduct planning for EU led operations at the strategic level.
- Related to the civil-military coordination (CMCO), to continue work on the establishment of information Exchange Requirements (IER). These will, inter alia, provide a useful input to the development of an EU Network Enabled Capability concept.
- To support the European Defence Agency (EDA) in its work, in particular with regard to the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).

- To continue implementing the EU exercise programme, including taking forward the work on the planning of the Crisis Management Exercise CME 08 and conducting MILEX 08.
- To strengthen training in the field of ESDP, encompassing both civilian and military dimensions, in particular through the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and also taking into account national activities as well as the Community instruments.
- To take further the work on the ESDP contribution to Security Sector Reform (SSR), Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), as well as on security and development.
- On the basis of the “Joint Statement on EU – UN Cooperation in crisis management” continue to promote consultations and cooperation with United Nations in the field of crisis management.
- To enhance the EU – NATO strategic partnership in crisis management, to ensure effective coordination, including on the security of the EU missions, where the two organizations are already or planning to be engaged in the same theatre (Kosovo and Afghanistan) and to ensure mutually reinforcing military capabilities development where requirements overlap.
- To continue the EU engagement in the Western Balkans through ongoing and future activities and to continue the dialogue with Mediterranean countries participating in the Barcelona process.
- On the basis of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy and First Action Plan (2008-2010) to be adopted at the Africa - EU Summit, as well as the Action Plan adopted by the Council in May 2007, continue strengthening the strategic partnership between EU and Africa in the area of African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. Further assist in development of the African Standby Force, including by EURO RECAMP.

- To continue close dialogue and co-operation with other key partners.
- To enhance dialogue and exchange of information with NGOs and civil society, and conduct the review of “Recommendations for Enhancing Co-operation with NGOs and Civil Society in the framework of EU Civilian Crisis management and Conflict Prevention”
- To continue promoting the implementation of relevant human rights related provisions in the context of the ESDP crisis management activities, as well as UNSCR 1325 and 1612. Special attention will be given to the relevant EU documents in the field of Children and Armed conflicts.
- To continue and enhance the implementation of the European Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts and prepare the annual presidency report on Conflict prevention for approval by the European Council in June 2008.
- To develop further, based on existing framework and discussions so far, the ESDP information campaign with the aim to raise the profile of the ESDP activities.
