



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
To : COREPER / Council
No. prev. doc. : 10314/06 PESC 562 FIN 234 PE 192 + REV 1 (en, fr)
Subject : Annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP (point G, paragraph 43 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006) - **2006**

1. The Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) of 17 May 2006 provides that "each year, the Council Presidency will consult the European Parliament on a forward-looking Council document, which will be transmitted by June 15 for the year in question, setting out the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the European Union and an evaluation of the measures launched in the year n-1".
2. The "Foreign Relations Counsellors" Working Group at its meetings on 22 and 29 March 2007 examined a draft report presented by the General Secretariat of the Council, and agreed to submit to COREPER/Council the text set out in the Annex.

3. The document follows the following criteria:

- its scope is limited to the description of CFSP activities, e.g. common positions, joint actions and implementing decisions. Where appropriate, and necessary in order to provide a comprehensive overview of activities, reference is made to actions falling outside Title V of the TEU;
- it is complementary to the chapter on external relations of the annual report on the progress of the European Union presented to the Parliament in application of Article 4 of the TEU; thus the broad priorities of the Union's external relations, as expressed for example in European Council conclusions, are included in the "Article 4" report.

4. The Committee is invited:

- to confirm agreement on the text of the draft document set out in the Annex;
- to recommend to the Council that it approve as an "A" item the document on the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the European Union and an evaluation of the measures launched in the year n-1.

**COUNCIL DOCUMENT ON THE MAIN ASPECTS AND BASIC CHOICES OF
THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY (CFSP) PRESENTED TO
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN APPLICATION OF POINT G
(PARAGRAPH 43) OF THE INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT
OF 17 MAY 2006**

- 2006 -

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PREFACE

The Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) of 17 May 2006 provides that "each year, the Council Presidency will consult the European Parliament on a forward-looking Council document, which will be transmitted by June 15 for the year in question, setting out the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP, including the financial implications for the general budget of the European Union and an evaluation of the measures launched in the year n-1".

The Council adopted the first such report on 30 March 1998¹ and has been reporting annually each year since then. This report covers the year 2006 and also looks at perspectives for future action in accordance with the practice followed since the 1999 report.

The 2006 report follows the following criteria:

Its scope is limited to the description of CFSP activities, e.g. common positions, joint actions and implementing decisions. Where appropriate, and necessary in order to provide a comprehensive overview of activities, reference is made to actions falling outside Title V of the TEU.

It is complementary to the chapter on external relations of the annual report on the progress of the European Union presented to the Parliament in application of Article 4 of the TEU; thus the broad priorities of the Union's external relations, as expressed for example in European Council conclusions, are included in the "Article 4" report.

The recapitulative lists of CFSP instruments (declarations, démarches, reports of Heads of Mission and political dialogue meetings) are, as from 2004, published in a separate document, to be issued twice a year. The information covering 2006 is contained in 6233/07 PESC 160 FIN 50.

The following items relating to CFSP matters are available on the Council's Internet website (<http://consilium.europa.eu>): list of CFSP legislative acts, declarations, information on EU Special Representatives, the calendar of CFSP activities, including political dialogue meetings with third countries, as well as basic texts on the EU's military structures.

¹ 7087/98 PESC 66 PE 23

The financial statements related to CFSP Joint Actions, which are normally annexed to the "I/A" item notes to Coreper/Council, are transmitted by the Council Secretariat to the European Parliament on a systematic basis. The documents in question can be accessed through the Public Register of Council documents on the Council website, immediately after adoption of the Joint Action by the Council.

Finally, attention is drawn to the website of the Commission on CFSP financing (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/cfsp/fin/index.htm)² and on CFSP restrictive measures, which provides, inter alia, an overview of the restrictive measures in force and a consolidated list of persons and entities subject to financial sanctions (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/cfsp/sanctions/index.htm).

² The first section of the website focuses on the institutional framework and budgetary procedure for the financing of Joint Actions adopted by the Council under the Common Foreign and Security Policy. It explains how the Commission's involvement differs from the financing and implementation of EC programs. The second section addresses a number of questions regarding the CFSP budget. The third and largest section presents an overview of ongoing Joint Actions financed from the CFSP budget, and is regularly updated. The website endeavours to meet the European Parliament's demand for transparency in the field of CFSP.

PART I

CFSP AND ESDP – INSTRUMENTS AND PRIORITIES

CHAPTER 1 - CFSP AND ESDP - INSTRUMENTS AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

1.1 - General aspects - general developments

1. The EU remained actively engaged in foreign and security policy in 2006, through its bilateral actions and through deepening its dialogue and cooperation with key international organisations and partners, adding value, coherence and effectiveness to the overall activities of the international community in promoting stability, security and peace, including through an active role in crisis management and conflict prevention.
2. The European Security Strategy remained the main source of guidance for the further development and implementation of CFSP. The many challenges faced by the EU and its international partners make it essential that the EU play an active and coherent global role through the CFSP. Close cooperation between the Council and Commission continued during the year, and was important for the effective delivery of EU objectives.
3. The EU's willingness to meet these challenges was demonstrated in its efforts to prevent and assist in resolving conflicts in Congo, Lebanon, and Indonesia (Aceh). EU action on the Western Balkans, the Southern Caucasus, the Middle East, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq demonstrated the EU's commitment to global peace and security and also the added value and effectiveness of the CFSP. In 2006 the EU conducted nine different operations across three continents providing the "key enablers" for peace, stability and security.

4. In order to deal successfully with the growing complexity and the scale of the global threats and to meet the challenges confronting it, the EU continued to pursue its objectives wherever possible through effective multilateralism, in close cooperation with different multilateral organisations, principally the UN, NATO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the International Criminal Court and others. It also enhanced cooperation with a variety of regional organisations, notably the African Union, but also ASEAN, the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Conferences, the Gulf Cooperation Council, ECOWAS, the Organisation of American States, and MERCOSUR, as well as with many other partners and non-state actors.
5. The EU continued to work closely with its global bilateral partners. EU-US cooperation covered the complete spectrum of international issues, including the Middle East, Africa, Balkans, non-proliferation and the fight against terrorism, confirming that the transatlantic partnership remains vital and effective. The EU also continued to work closely with its other key strategic partners Canada, India, Japan, China, and Russia, and it deepened its ties with countries of the eastern and southern neighbourhood. The forthcoming EU strategy on Central Asia will give a new impetus to relations with this region and its countries.
6. The EU continued the close cooperation in ESDP crisis management with non-EU NATO members and other third States, including through their participation in the European Union crisis management operations under the ESDP. Third States' interest and involvement in these operations is increasing. For the first time African policemen (from Angola and Mali) participated in an ESDP mission reinforcing EUPOL KINSHASA during the electoral period in the DR Congo.
7. Efforts aiming at improving civil-military coordination in EU crisis management continued throughout 2006. With a view to improving inter alia strategic planning and coherence between the Union's various external policy instruments, as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and between the latter and the Member States, the June European Council invited the Presidency, the Council, the SG/HR and the Commission to examine appropriate measures, among others those contained in the Commission's paper "Europe in the World".

The December European Council welcomed the progress being made in this field and invited future presidencies to take work forward with the SG/HR and the Commission.

8. To be efficient, EU action within the CFSP cannot rely only on solidarity, responsibility, willingness and capabilities - these have clearly grown in recent years - but should also be able to rely on a sound financial base. In order to consolidate this base, close cooperation between the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Member States and the Council will have to be continued.
9. In 2006 the Council continued its close interaction and partnership with the European Parliament, with Council and Presidency representatives appearing more than 120 times at the EP to discuss and to brief MEPs on full variety of CFSP and ESDP related issues. This close partnership will continue in 2007.
10. Work aiming at full implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security in the context of ESDP was carried on also in 2006, leading inter alia to endorsement of a check list to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the planning and conduct of ESDP Operations.
11. In 2007 and beyond, the EU will also continue to fulfil its responsibilities to the international community in addressing global security challenges, most of which will require a continuous and coordinated international effort. At the same time, an enhanced contribution by the EU to non-proliferation of WMD in particular with regard to Iran and DPRK, the fight against terrorism and radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism, the improvement in parallel of human rights worldwide, and the countering of illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, all clearly serve the interests of the EU and its citizens. Improved inter-faith dialogue and understanding will remain a key priority, together with continued action to improve general human security. It is also clear that the EU will have to redouble its efforts in close cooperation with the international community to mitigate climate change and at the same time to ensure Europe's energy security.

12. Kosovo, the Western Balkan states, the Middle East including Lebanon, Afghanistan, Sudan/Darfur, Somalia, frozen conflicts in the EU neighbourhood, Iran and Iraq will all remain on the CFSP agenda.
13. The implementation of the European Security Strategy will require conflict prevention and conflict resolution capacities to be strengthened. Through the continued build-up of civilian and military capabilities, continued efforts to optimise their coordinated use where appropriate and the further enhancement of the ability to respond rapidly to crises if required, the EU will continue to make its important contribution to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of an increasingly globalised world.

1.2 - Civilian Crisis Management Missions

General Trends

14. The demand for Civilian Crisis Management Missions has continued to increase. In 2006, eight civilian missions and one civilian-military action were operational in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Western Balkans. New fields, such as border monitoring or supporting security sector reform are increasingly covered by ESDP missions. There is also a noticeable trend towards multidimensional operations. The broadening of the thematic and geographical scope of ESDP actions has widened, entailing new political, security, logistical and financial challenges and needs.
15. A European Union Planning Team (EUPT) was deployed in Kosovo to ensure a smooth transition between selected tasks of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law, police and other areas, that might be deployed by the EU after the Kosovo status process issue has been resolved.

16. Following a Joint Assessment Mission in September 2006, a Fact Finding Mission was sent to Afghanistan in November 2006 to examine if and where an ESDP police mission with linkages to the wider rule of law in Afghanistan could provide added value to current efforts, to consider the impact of the security situation on such a mission, to set out the logistical implications and to report on cost estimates.

17. During the year, work was also pursued in the fields of training, capabilities and mission support. In June 2006, the Council welcomed the adoption of a policy framework for Security Sector Reform (SSR), encompassing both ESDP and Community aspects.

In December, the Council approved an EU concept of support for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR). First steps were made towards the mainstreaming of human rights and gender issues into ESDP with the adoption of checklists on gender and children and armed conflict, a document on mainstreaming of human rights into ESDP as well as Council Conclusions on human rights and on gender.

18. Cooperation with international partners in the area of ESDP has increased. ASEAN and African partners participated in ESDP missions. Work has also been undertaken to develop the crisis management capabilities of others. In this regard, work was undertaken to assist the African Union and sub-regional organisations in the development of their peace-keeping capabilities, in the context of the emerging African Stand-by-Force (ASF). The objective to put in place an ASF by 2010 is likely to place new demands upon the EU for assistance.

Civilian Headline Goal 2008

19. The Civilian Headline Goal (CHG) 2008 process in 2006 focused on the following main issues:

- Qualitative aspects of the EU civilian capabilities indicated by Member States in 2005;
- Possible contributions of certain non-EU States to the EU civilian crisis management capacity;

- Enhancement of the involvement in Civilian Crisis Management of sectoral ministries in Member States and the establishment of good practice for raising civilian mission personnel;
- Approval and initial implementation of the recommendations and guidelines on the raising of civilian personnel;
- Development of an initial concept of mission support for ESDP civilian crisis management missions with rapidly deployable civilian capabilities, the establishment of a list of required Mission Support capabilities as well as of a questionnaire to Member States based on this list;
- Rapidly deployable civilian elements.

20. Member States' replies to the CHG 2008 Questionnaire in 2005 provided a comprehensive indication of the potential mission personnel for civilian ESDP. Non-Member States' replies to the CHG 2008 questionnaire which was submitted to them in 2006 provided an initial indication of the possible contributions of certain non-EU States to civilian ESDP.

21. The General Secretariat explored possible ways to assist Member States in establishing national contact points for Civilian Crisis Management, so as to enhance the involvement of the sectoral Ministries concerned and the exchange at EU level of information and best practices among them. Furthermore, a set of recommendations and guidelines on the raising of civilian personnel was approved. Implementation started immediately and currently focuses on:

- Enhancing the involvement in civilian ESDP of key national stakeholders, notably in the Police and Rule of Law fields;
- Considering ways to anticipate the notification of civilian ESDP personnel requirements to Member States in view of upcoming missions;
- Improving the availability of information on training and recruitment; in this context, a website will be launched to facilitate the recruitment of seconded personnel;

- Fostering the exchange of know-how, best practices and lessons learned among Member States and between the Member States and the Council Secretariat.
22. Upon the approval of the initial concept of mission support for ESDP civilian crisis management missions in September 2006, a list of capabilities in this field required in the framework of the CHG 2008 process was established. A questionnaire based on this list was issued to Member States in early November 2006. Results will be presented shortly.
 23. Work on rapidly deployable civilian elements focused on Civilian Response Teams (CRTs) and Integrated Police Units (IPUs) and Formed Police Units (FPUs). Further work was undertaken on the transition of those rapidly deployable police elements that are under temporary military responsibility into a civilian chain of command, and the coordination between rapidly deployable Police elements (IPUs, FPUs, Specialised Element, HQ) and Rule of Law elements.
 24. In the framework of the Civilian Response Teams (CRTs), a training course concept and mobilisation and deployment procedures were agreed. The selection of CRT candidates was completed and four training sessions were conducted during the year, in the framework of the European Community project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management. At the end of 2006, 83 experts had received training in accordance with the agreed concept. One of these experts was deployed on an assessment mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in early October 2006. Rapid deployment of CRTs was also studied in the context of the Exercise Study 2006. The operationalisation of CRTs would make an important contribution towards strengthening the civilian rapid response capacities of the EU.
 25. The EU Exercise Study 2006 (November 2006) was a useful contribution to the further development of a planning framework, including a set of legal and operational procedures for the actual deployment of rapidly deployable police elements and CRTs.

Training

26. Work was taken forward to identify training requirements for civilian crisis management operations. At the end of the year, Member States agreed to take work forward in order to harmonise the training, and ensure a consistent high level of quality among EU training providers and better interoperability with EU key partners in crisis management. Lists of minimum elements of training for non-mission-specific and mission-specific training were agreed. Whereas Member States maintain the overall responsibility for training their personnel on missions, the Council Secretariat was charged with coordinating pre-mission training for Heads of Mission and key mission personnel, whereas the Heads of Mission were given a strengthened role to carry out in-mission training.
27. Preparation for the training of personnel for a future EU mission in Kosovo, larger than previous missions, was carried forward. Within the context of the EU civilian-military action supporting the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), the EU has provided support for the training of police personnel through providing a capacity for in-mission training by a group of EU trainers.

Mission Support

28. An initial concept of mission support for ESDP civilian crisis management missions, with an ambitious way ahead, was approved but will remain a living document. This concept includes a general description of mission support activities, an outline of key features of mission support in the context of ESDP, ESDP mission support in Brussels, tasks corresponding to the different phases of the cycle of a mission and day-to-day mission management. It offers a useful overall framework for further developing effective mission support tools and procedures.

29. An information note was presented from the Commission services and the Council Secretariat on the simplification of procedures for EU crisis management. These measures should significantly shorten the time for CFSP/ESDP missions to start and to be fully operational. Solutions are being sought in this regard, including the use of framework contracts for quick simplified procurement of essential mission equipment. The achievement of the objective can be fully assessed when experiences are gained on implementation of these solutions.
30. An agreement was reached on guidelines for allowances for seconded staff participating in EU civilian crisis management missions, applicable in cases where these costs are borne by the CFSP budget. The Guidelines succeeded in establishing uniform and homogeneous criteria for determining allowances, including per diems, hardship and risk allowances.

List of Missions

31. The following missions³ were operational in 2006 (including third country participation) (further details about each mission can be found under the respective geographical subject heading):

Western Balkans

- European Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia-Herzegovina; the following third countries provided contributions: Canada, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine. Romania and Bulgaria participated as third countries until their accession to the EU on 1 January 2007.
- EU police advisory team (EUPAT) in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, completed on 14 June 2006.

³ It should be noted that certain EU missions in third countries do not have a CFSP legal basis, but are established and operated by the Commission as Community projects. Examples include the EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), to which Member States have seconded officials, or the Police Assistance Mission of the European Community to Albania (PAMECA).

Middle East

- EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS).
- EU Border Assistance Mission at Rafah Crossing Point in the Palestinian Territories (EU BAM Rafah).
- EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (Eujust Lex).

Africa

- EU Police Mission in Kinshasa (DRC) (EUPOL Kinshasa); Canada and Turkey provided contributions. Angola and Mali contributed to the reinforcement of EUPOL KINSHASA during the electoral period.
- EU security sector reform mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUSEC DR Congo).
- EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS II (Darfur); Canada provided a contribution.

South-East Asia

- Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), completed on 15 December 2006. Norway and Switzerland provided contributions. The following ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries also participated in the mission: Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Singapore.

1.3 - Military aspects

General trends

32. The **Operations Centre** is ready to be set up rapidly for use in line with the agreed procedures. This will further enhance the capacity of the EU to undertake ESDP operations.
33. The **Civil-Military Cell** continued its work according to its terms of reference. It contributed to the civil-military aspects of concept development in the domain of SSR and DDR and preparation and execution of exercise EST06. It supported the planning of future civilian ESDP missions in particular in Kosovo and Afghanistan. The Civil-Military Cell played a key role in identifying options and requirements for the military operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During the Lebanon crisis the Cell facilitated the exchange of information on Member States' military assets in support of the evacuation and relief activities.
34. On 1 January 2007, the European Union reached the full operational capability to undertake two operations of **Battlegroup (BG)** size in situations requiring a rapid response, including the ability to launch two such operations nearly simultaneously. The BG concept has entered its operational phase as planned. Two BGs are now in stand-by position following an agreed roster.
35. Work will continue on the elaboration of a Maritime Rapid Response Concept and on the use of a military air capability for Rapid Response for ESDP operations.
36. In November, the Council noted the **Force Catalogue 2006 (FC06)**, which presents Member States' contributions against the required military capabilities defined in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 as derived from the European Security Strategy and the Headline Goal 2010. Contributions from non-EU European NATO members and other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU are presented in a Supplement to the FC.

37. Significant progress was achieved in the qualitative approach to capability planning called for by the Headline Goal 2010.
38. Bulgaria's and Romania's contributions are now included among the other Member States in a new version of the Force Catalogue (February 2007 (FC07)).
39. The assessment of Member States' contributions for the year 2010, the identification of the resulting shortfalls and their potential operational implications will be included in the Progress Catalogue 2007 (PC 07), which will be one cornerstone of the Capability Development Plan.
40. Work continued in the area of **civil-military coordination (CMCO)**. In May, the Council noted work on solutions for the management of EU Crisis Management Operations in order to enhance civil-military coordination in the field. In November, the Council noted recent work on improving situational awareness in theatre. A high degree of common situational assessment remains an important aspect for optimised effectiveness and efficiency of EU missions present in a theatre of operations. The Council underlined the importance of ensuring a comprehensive approach with regard to the work on the Information Exchange Requirements.
41. Work on ensuring coordination and coherence in situations where at least two EU actors were present was also pursued, with an emphasis on mutual coordination practices. A case study was undertaken with regard to the EU Special Representative (EUSR) and the ESDP instruments in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
42. In the context of the Hampton Court follow-up and the proposals put forward by the SG/HR in March 2006, the necessary framework on **military support to EU disaster response** including transportation and ESDP Coordination tools was finalised by the Council. The arrangements set out therein are designed to enhance the rapidity and effectiveness of the EU's response to disasters. They will be subject to review, as necessary, in the light of experience gained.

43. The Commission and the Council respectively approved an EU Concept for support for **Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration** (DDR) jointly developed by the Council Secretariat and the European Commission. Implementation of the EU Policy Framework on **SSR** continued. With regard to the Western Balkans, Council Secretariat and Commission are currently preparing an overview of ongoing EU SSR activities. Regarding SSR work in the DRC, the Commission and the Council Secretariat jointly elaborated a proposal for a comprehensive EU approach to SSR in the DRC. Work continued to mainstream **Security Sector Reform** into the EU assistance instruments that are associated with the Stabilisation and Accession Process in the Western Balkans (see also part 2).

Athena Review

44. In December 2006 the Council reached agreement on a draft decision amending ATHENA, the mechanism to administer the financing of agreed common costs of EU operations having military or defence implications. The decision amends the February 2004 decision establishing ATHENA by introducing a series of technical modifications and by reviewing the different categories of items to be borne by ATHENA. It also envisages the financing through ATHENA of EU military supporting actions in support of third states or third organisations. It was also agreed that for a two-year period ATHENA will meet the operational common and incremental costs when providing strategic airlift for the rapid deployment of EU Battlegroups. The next ATHENA- review is planned for 2008.

45. A '**Framework Participation Agreement**' was signed between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey on 29 June 2006, covering the legal and financial framework for the participation of the Republic of Turkey in both civilian and military EU crisis management operations. The Agreement will only enter into force after its ratification by Turkey.

Operations/Missions

46. The EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Operation ALTHEA**, continued with the operational focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment, on the fight against organised crime and on reducing the amount of surplus weapons and ammunition in the country. EUFOR continues to work in close cooperation with other EU actors present in BiH. Cooperation with NATO has continued to work well in the context of Berlin Plus arrangements. 24 Member States and 10 non-EU countries, namely Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Switzerland and Turkey, are contributing to the operation. Romania and Bulgaria participated as third countries until their accession to the EU on 1 January 2007.
47. In December 2006, the Council reviewed Operation ALTHEA and underlined the continued need for an EU military presence to provide reassurance and to react to any possible security challenges. At the same time, the Council decided in principle on a transition of Operation ALTHEA. The definitive decision enabling a progressive, but reversible reconfiguration of the force was taken in February 2007, taking into account the security situation in the country as well as the impact on that of the regional security situation.
48. On 18 July 2005, the Council took the decision to launch **the EU civilian-military supporting action to the African Union (AU) mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS)**⁴. In December 2006 it was agreed to extend the supporting action to AMIS for a further period of six months from 1 January 2007. The EU and Member States' support includes the provision of expert military and civilian police assistance and training to the AMIS chain of command in Khartoum, Darfur and Addis Ababa. AMIS has also been provided with equipment support and enabling capabilities, particularly the ongoing provision of strategic airlift.

⁴ Council Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP (OJ L 188, 20.7.2005, p. 46).

Future EU support will be judged in the light of continuing developments including the deployment of UN support for AMIS in a three-phase package leading to an AU/UN hybrid operation. Close coordination will continue between the EU, the AU and the UN, and other involved international partners.

49. The **EUSEC RD Congo** mission launched in May 2005 has continued to fulfil its mandate in providing technical assistance and advice to the Ministry of Defence authorities, in particular to complete the integration of the DRC armed forces. EUSEC RD Congo has also achieved concrete results in its chain of payments project conceived to modernise the MoD administration in Kinshasa while in parallel providing counselling at brigade level in the field. Salaries for the military have been increased, and have been paid with regularity since the spring of 2006. The mission's mandate will be refocused in early 2007 in order to provide assistance to the new Government in its efforts to restructure and reconstruct the Congolese armed forces. To that end, additional counsellors will be posted at provincial level.

50. In response to a request from the UN and following adoption of a Council Joint Action on 27 April 2006, the EU deployed a military mission to Congo (**EUFOR RD Congo**) in support of MONUC and the Congolese election process. Deployed under the authority of UN Security Council Resolution 1671 (2006), 17 Member States, Turkey and Switzerland contributed to the mission, which reached full operational capacity by 30 July 2006. Following the successful conclusion of the Congolese election process, the operation terminated as planned on 30 November and the force was subsequently recovered from theatre.

51. In the DRC, EU-led missions contributed decisively to ensuring that the electoral process enabled the peaceful transition to a democratically elected government.

52. Further details on each mission/operation can be found under sub-chapters 4 and 5 of this Chapter and under the respective geographical headings.

1.4 - Cooperation with International Organisations under the ESDP

Cooperation with the UN

53. EU-UN cooperation in the field of crisis management continued to develop, notably in the context of Operation EUFOR RD Congo in support of the UN mission "MONUC" during the electoral process in the DRC. During the active phase of Operation EUFOR RD Congo, cooperation in the field between the two operations was extensive and included, inter alia, concerted missions and patrols. As a follow-up to the operation, the EU and the UN identified lessons for future EU-UN operations. At the request of MONUC, the EU also reinforced its police mission (EUPOL Kinshasa).
54. The EU and the UN continued their close coordination regarding support for the AU mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the implementation of the UN support package for AMIS. To support the implementation of UNSCR 1701 (2006), the EU Member States made a significant contribution to the reinforcement and deployment of UNIFIL forces. Meetings between representatives of both EU and UN staff continued inter alia through the consultative mechanism, the EU-UN Steering Committee. This mechanism was established by the 2003 Joint EU-UN declaration on cooperation in crisis management. The EU and the UN will continue their close cooperation on operational activities, inter alia through continued support for the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and the preparation of the transition of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to an EU-led mission. The EU and the UN also intend to reinforce their cooperation on the efforts they are currently carrying out to support the development of the African Peace and Security Architecture and notably, the establishment of an African-Stand-by-Force (ASF).

EU-NATO cooperation

55. The EU and NATO continued to develop further their strategic partnership in crisis management. Cooperation was also facilitated through the permanent EU cell at SHAPE and the permanent NATO liaison team at the EU Military Staff.

The conduct of Operation ALTHEA under the "Berlin plus" arrangements as well as cooperation with NATO in its remaining tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to go smoothly and in a satisfactory manner. The EU and NATO continued, moreover, to cooperate to ensure effective support to the AU Mission AMIS in Darfur, including through a joint airlift coordination cell in Addis Ababa.

EU-NATO contacts continued in the field of military capability development. The EU-NATO Capabilities Group met regularly to exchange information and views. As in previous years, EU-NATO contacts extended also to the area of exercises, although a joint CME-CMX Exercise had to be postponed to a later date.

EU-NATO relations will be of increased relevance in the context of preparation and conduct of the forthcoming civilian ESDP mission in Kosovo and a possible civilian ESDP mission in Afghanistan. Suitable technical cooperation arrangements will be part of the set up of either ESDP mission.

Cooperation with the African Union under ESDP

56. In 2006, progress was made on the implementation of the peace and security cluster of the EU Strategy for Africa, adopted by the European Council in December 2005. This cooperation focused mainly on the African Union and on sub-regional organisations.

The reinforcement of African capabilities to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and to keep peace are the main topics of EU/AU cooperation under ESDP.

As a response to the emerging African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the Council Secretariat and the Commission jointly produced a "European Union concept for Strengthening African Capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict," which was welcomed by the General Affairs Council in November 2006.

The EU has deployed an ESDP civilian-military action in support of the African Mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS), which provides the African Union with expert advice, support, training and strategic lift.

Future work will include the development of a joint EU/Africa Strategy, as well as the implementation of the "European Union concept for Strengthening African Capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts".

1.5 - EU acting within international fora

United Nations (UN)

57. In 2006, the EU focused on the implementation of the 2005 World Summit outcome and reaffirmed its commitment⁵ to ensuring that the reforms agreed at the Summit are fully and speedily implemented. One of the key developments has been the start of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission where the EU is actively engaged. In that respect, the EU has agreed on principles⁶ to make the EU's presence in the PBC more effective and visible. The EU also pursued efforts to support management reform and mandate review as key pillars to support UN action in the fields of development, collective security and human rights. In July, the Council adopted the EU priorities⁷ for the 61st session of the UN General Assembly prioritising the implementation of the outcome document of the World Summit while restating its commitment to the UN, to upholding and developing international law, and to effective multilateralism as a central element of its external action. The overall picture is mixed. While some results were achieved, with the establishment in particular of the Human Rights Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Central Emergency Response Fund, the road to agreement was difficult and tensions, suspicion and mistrust played an important role. However, the EU has played an important role in advancing the UN agenda, acting as an effective bridge builder.

⁵ Council Conclusions of 10 April (7157/06) and 15 December 2006 (16842/06).

⁶ 8960/06 + COR1 and 16834/06 EXT 1.

⁷ EU priorities for the 61st UNGA (11380/06).

58. In 2007, one of the EU's main priorities will be the implementation of the report on system-wide coherence in line with its commitment the Millennium Development Goals and to reforming the UN system. The EU considers it important to engage all UN Member States and other stakeholders in active discussion of the Report's recommendations and to agree on measures that will strengthen the UN's capacity to deliver as one in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, the environment and the achievement of the MDGs.

The International Criminal Court (ICC)

59. During 2006, the EU continued to implement the Council's Common Position on the ICC of 16 June 2003⁸ and the associated Action Plan of February 2004. It carried out démarches to approximately sixty third-country governments, in particular to promote ratification of or accession to the Rome Statute. Furthermore, the EU is systematically pursuing the inclusion of an ICC clause in negotiating mandates and agreements with third countries. The issue of the ICC was raised with third parties on other occasions such as political dialogue meetings and Summits. On 10 April 2006, the EU and the ICC signed an agreement on cooperation and assistance.⁹ Initiatives were taken to ensure mainstreaming of the ICC into the work of other working parties, in particular those dealing with Africa and Asia. The EU made a statement at the 5th Session of the Assembly of the States Parties of the Rome Statute (The Hague, 23 November - 1 December 2006, which resumed in New York 29 January - 1 February 2007). Between COJUR and the ICC, the Presidency and the Council Secretariat maintain regular contacts with NGOs.

Throughout 2006, the EU has thus pursued the implementation of the Action Plan, and EU support for the Court remains as firm as ever.

⁸ Council Common Position 2003/444/CFSP, OJ L 150, 18.6.2003, p. 67.

⁹ OJ L 115, 28.4.2006, p. 50.

60. The EU will continue this work in 2007, in particular the implementation of the Action Plan. A central topic raised by the Court at the Assembly of the States Parties in 2006 was the need for increased cooperation with State Parties. This issue will be discussed at the Council, both in relation to the implementation of the EU-ICC agreement and to the obligations by Member States.

OSCE

61. Relations with the OSCE have been consistently good over the past year. Institutionally, the second assessment report on the EU's role in the OSCE was finalised in February 2007 . It records the EU's objectives and priorities in the OSCE.

With 27 participating States out of 56, plus up to 10 others aligning themselves with its statements and supporting its initiatives and policies, the EU's relative weight in the OSCE has grown again. The assessment report suggests ways of translating this weight into more effective influence without overpowering partners.

A draft Joint Declaration by the EU and the OSCE aiming at further enhancing cooperation is awaiting agreement from the OSCE side (one Partner State is opposing it).

The discussion on 'Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE' was largely brought to a close at the Brussels Ministerial (December 2006). The EU's main requests, namely the preservation of the mandate and of the autonomy of the OSCE's field missions and of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), questioned by Russia and like-minded participating States, have been met. In 2007, the EU will remain vigilant against possible encroachments on this autonomy. The EU will continue to give full support to the ODIHR's Election Observation Missions.

In 2007, the EU aims at a continuing role for the OSCE in Kosovo, and will take into account its large expertise in the field when setting up its own operation.

62. The EU lends its full support to the OSCE in its role as mediator in the 'frozen conflicts'. Its long experience and impartiality (thanks to the inclusiveness of its membership) has led to some notable successes in 2006 (e.g. its mediation in the liberation of the 4 Russian officials detained by Georgia, or in bringing parties together in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict), which the OSCE should build on further in 2007.

At the Brussels Ministerial, the decision on granting Kazakhstan the Chair of the OSCE in 2009 was postponed to the November 2007 Madrid Ministerial at the latest. The EU welcomes the bid, recalling at the same time that Kazakhstan's candidacy represents a commitment to continue reforms and to comply with OSCE undertakings and standards in all dimensions.

Council of Europe (CoE)

63. The Council of Europe Summit in Warsaw on 17 May 2005 called for increased cooperation between the EU and the CoE. To this end, it set in motion two processes: the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the organisations, and a report on the relations between them by Luxembourg Prime Minister Juncker in his personal capacity.

In 2006, under the Romanian and then Russian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, the drafting sessions for the MoU on the cooperation between the EU and the CoE, a complex document, have been intense. They are continuing under the present Presidency of San Marino, which aims at an agreement in May.

The 'Juncker Report' (issued in June 2006) has a wider scope: it considers the relations between the EU and the CoE in the context of the political and legal architecture of Europe and gives 15 recommendations, some of them far-reaching, for improvements in the short and longer term. A High Level Follow-up Group has been set up by the EU and the CoE jointly to prepare a report on the recommendations and identify their legal, institutional and financial implications as well as their short and long term feasibility and propose how best to take them forward.

Collaboration between the CoE and the Commission on numerous joint projects has remained excellent; the Commission is constantly looking for new ways and fields to reinforce this practical cooperation.

The CoE and the EU share deep concern on the future of the European Court of Human Rights: the non-ratification by one CoE Member State, Russia, of Protocol 14, the impact of which is essential to alleviate the current backlog of cases which , threatens the functioning of this Court. Both institutions will continue to strongly urge Russia to ratify the Protocol. in 2007.

1.6 - Institutionalisation of ESDP: EDA, ISS, SATCEN and the European Security and Defence College

64. The **European Defence Agency**¹⁰ (EDA) continued implementing its twin-track approach of longer-term strategies for potentially converging national plans and priorities, and shorter-term initiatives for pooling participating Member States' efforts and resources.

In 2006 the EDA started to deliver substantial results. In particular, the regime on Defence Procurement concerning the **European Defence Equipment Market** was brought into operation, and the EDA Steering Board endorsed an initial '**Long-Term Vision** for European Defence Capability and Capacity Needs' and launched the first **Defence Research and Technology (R&T)** "Joint Investment Programme", with a budget of over EUR 54,23 million in the area of force protection. There has also been good progress in the Command, Control and Communication area. Cooperation with Norway has been further developed on the basis of the Administrative Arrangement.

In November, the Council adopted the guidelines for the EDA's work in 2007¹¹ and the EDA's budget for 2007 (EUR 22,1 million, including EUR 5 million for the operational budget). The setting of a three-year financial framework¹² was postponed to the following year. In 2007, the EDA will work in particular on an ESDP Capability Development Plan, on European R&T as well as on Defence Technological and Industrial Base strategies and on a cooperative armaments process.

¹⁰ Established by Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP of 12 July 2004.

¹¹ 15184/06 dated 13 November 2006.

¹² 14786/06 dated 7 November 2006.

65. The **EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)** and the **EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)** continued to develop their work in line with their missions. Following the five-year review reports on the activities of the agencies, presented by the SG/HR in July, the Council amended the Joint Actions establishing those agencies in December. The role of the EUISS as a focal point for academic exchange, networking and monitoring was further broadened and strengthened. Equally, the role of the EUSC was reinforced, in particular in relation to the preparation and conduct of operations and support actions and through the very fruitful cooperation with the UN in the DRC and in Lebanon. These developments will further enhance the agencies' potential, enabling the EUISS to respond to an increasing demand for CFSP/ESDP related research and analysis, and enabling the EUSC to provide security-related geospatial information analysis in the field of the CFSP/ESDP, in particular by being involved from the early planning phases.
66. The Council approved the **EU Training Programme in ESDP** for 2006-2008 and, following a sound evaluation of previous training activities in 2005, approved steps to further improve the efforts in this field. This included in particular a greater focus on training for civilian staff for crisis management missions.
67. In 2006, the **European Security and Defence College** concluded the first official ESDP High Level Course (with two participants from the European Parliament/Secretariat) in March, and conducted four ESDP Orientation Courses. To promote and improve cooperation with partners in the field of ESDP, these four courses took place with participation of third States and International Organisations. A pilot ESDP Course for Press and Public Information Staff was conducted successfully and will subsequently be established as a permanent course of the College.

All in all, and in line with the importance attached to training in two reports of the European Parliament¹³, significant efforts and progress have been made in 2006 to implement the EU Training Concept in the field of ESDP. The strategic-level training in the field of ESDP provided by the European Security and Defence College is an important contribution to developing and promoting a common understanding of ESDP among civilian and military personnel - hence, contributing to the **development of a European Security Culture**.

¹³ The Committee on Foreign Affairs "emphasises, in this context, as set out in the Security Strategy, the need to develop a corresponding security culture and therefore supports unreservedly the work now under way on implementing the EU training concept in the ESDP sphere; the development and setting-up of a European Security and Defence College must in future provide the institutions of the European Union and the Member States with well-trained staff who are capable of operating effectively in the ESDP sphere; to this end, the College must be organised on a viable basis and appropriately funded." Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the CFSP Report to the EP, paragraph 15, 21 March 2005, Rapporteur: Elmar Brok.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs "emphasises the need to develop a European security culture through an effective implementation of the EU Training Concept in ESDP which increases the interoperability among all actors involved in EU crisis management. Underlines in this context the need for the establishment of a European Security and Defence College (ESDC) which provides EU instances and Member States with knowledgeable personnel able to work efficiently on all ESDP matters. This College must be based on sound organisational and financial modalities." Committee on Foreign Affairs, Report on the European Security Strategy, paragraph 25, 22 March 2005, Rapporteur: Helmut Kuhne.

1.7 - European Union Special Representatives

68. The European Union's Special Representatives (EUSRs) are a forceful illustration of the EU's growing global engagement in conflict resolution, conflict prevention and crisis management. In 2006, nine EUSRs were in place, covering selected EU priority countries and regions where high-level EU engagement and an overall coherence of approach are required: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central Asia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (at the same time head of the Delegation of the Commission), the African Great Lakes, the Middle East Peace Process, Republic of the Republic of Moldova, the South Caucasus, and Sudan.

The list of EUSRs reflects EU priorities in the common foreign and security policy, and EUSR presence extends to most of the world's conflict regions where EU interests are most directly at stake. EUSRs are the European Union's face in the field.

69. EUSRs are appointed by the Council through a legal act under Articles 14, 18(5) and 23(2) of the EU Treaty. The relevant legal act provides them with a mandate in relation to particular policy issues. In many instances, the task assigned to them is helping bring about solutions to long-standing or "frozen" conflicts.

70. The EUSRs carry out their duties under the authority and operational direction of the High Representative - to whose work they lend valuable support. They are closely linked with the relevant CFSP bodies, in particular the Political and Security Committee which provides strategic guidance and political input within the framework of their mandates. There continues to be a mix between, on the one hand, EUSRs resident in their country/region of activity, and, on the other hand, those working on a travelling basis from Brussels. Member States and EU institutions continue to make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the EUSRs and their teams, interacting locally with the EUSR in the country/region, and in particular also through contributing experts to the EUSRs' teams.

71. In 2006, the EUSRs played a significant, value-added role as an important tool of the common foreign and security policy. A key element in this is good and fast information flow: the EUSRs ensured timely reporting and analysis of developments for the High Representative and all other CFSP actors in Brussels, adding to overall understanding among Member States and the EU institutions of the issues at stake in the countries and regions they cover. They also contributed directly to the formulation of policy and its delivery on the ground, including through political advice to ESDP operations, preparing policy proposals for consideration by the Political and Security Committee and Council Working Parties. Moreover, the EUSRs ensured political contacts and continuity with the EU's interlocutors and carried out valuable work in mediating and promoting dialogue between parties to conflicts.
72. The EUSRs continued to play an important role in ensuring, on the ground, coherence across the whole "EU family": i.e. helping bring together the full spectrum of conflict management instruments - military, civilian, diplomatic and economic - and helping coordinate the action of all EU actors and other relevant actors engaged. Ensuring coordination and coherence - and optimising synergies - is a task of fundamental importance with a view to successful and sustainable action of the EU as a whole. Detailed assessments of the work of the individual EUSRs are contained in the regional/country sections below.

73. High Representative Solana has encouraged EUSRs to update the European Parliament on a regular basis on their objectives and activities. In 2006, EUSRs made 11 appearances at Parliamentary Committee meetings: on 26 January in AFET, EUSR for Sudan Haavisto on EU Support to AMIS II; on 22 February in AFET, EUSR for the South Caucasus Talvitie on latest developments in the South Caucasus; on 25 April in AFET, EUSR for Bosnia and Herzegovina Schwarz-Schilling on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; on 3 May in AFET, EUSR for Central Asia Kubiš on developments in Central Asia; on 30 May with the Delegation to the EU-Georgia PCC and EU-Russia PCC, EUSR for the South Caucasus Semneby on Georgia; on 11 July in AFET, EUSR Ajello on EUFOR RD Congo and the situation in the Great Lakes region; on 28 August in AFET, EUSR for the Middle East peace process Otte on the situation in the Middle East; on 14 September in AFET, EUSR for Afghanistan Vendrell on the situation in Afghanistan; on 5 October in AFET, EUSR for the South Caucasus Semneby on latest developments in the South Caucasus; on 10 October in AFET, EUSR for Bosnia and Herzegovina Schwarz-Schilling on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and on 23 November in AFET, EUSR for the Republic of Moldova Jacobovits de Szeged on the Republic of Moldova.
74. In 2007, EUSRs will remain an important factor contributing to the decision-making process and the implementation of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Reflecting changing requirements, it is likely that an EUSR will be appointed for Kosovo as part of the post-status arrangements. Moreover, the EU is currently considering the creation of an EU representation to the AU in Addis Ababa, following the example of the EU presence in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Modalities for recruitment of the EU Representative as well as for the lines of reporting would be agreed between the SG/HR and the Commission.

CHAPTER 2 - FINANCING OF CFSP/ESDP

75. Under Article 28(3) of the Treaty on the European Union, operating expenditure related to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is to be charged to the budget of the European Union, except for such expenditure arising from operations having military or defence implications and cases where the Council acting unanimously decides otherwise. For the common costs of operations with military or defence implications the Council has established a special mechanism (ATHENA).

2.1 - General context - important developments in the wider legal and financial framework for external relations

76. The increasing activity of the EU in the field of Common Foreign and Security Policy is closely linked to the issue of adequate financial resources. It can be noted that important developments took place in 2006 relating to the wider legal and financial framework for EU external relations, notably the overall amount for the CFSP budget of "at least EUR 1 740 million" available for the CFSP over the period 2007-2013 agreed in the Interinstitutional Agreement¹⁴, the revision of the Financial Regulation to allow for rapid initial deployment for crisis management operations, and the adoption of the Instrument for Stability which provides for complementary Community action within its development cooperation and assistance policies. All of these elements, together with a sufficient allocation for the CFSP budget¹⁵, will have an important role to play in contributing to an effective and coherent EU response to political crisis situations.

¹⁴ Paragraph 42 of the Interinstitutional Agreement

¹⁵ The CFSP budget for 2006 was EUR 102,6 million. The CFSP budget for 2007 is EUR 159,2 million.

2.2 - Activities funded by the CFSP budget line¹⁶ in 2006

77. In line with the EU's increasing engagement in the field of civilian crisis management, the major part (77,7 percent) of the 2006 CFSP budget was allocated to operations and actions related to civilian crisis management, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, undertaken or supported by the European Union. The diversity and scale of these activities, which by their nature require a capacity to react to unforeseeable situations of conflict or crisis, and in most cases involve considerable running and logistic costs, justify the high level of funding in this area.
78. Another significant part (12,3 percent) of the 2006 CFSP budget was allocated to EU activities implementing the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and to finance operations to combat the destabilising accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW).
79. The 2006 CFSP budget also covered the expenditure connected to the mandates of the EU Special Representatives (10,8 percent). The remaining part of the budget was allocated for funding preparatory and follow-up actions. It can be noted that as in previous years the full amount of the 2006 CFSP budget was committed (100 percent)¹⁷.
80. It is not always easy to assess the success of actions financed under the CFSP. It seems, however, clear that a relatively small financial input into CFSP/ ESDP actions can produce outstanding value for money and have a crucial impact for the people affected by conflicts and crises.
- Moreover, the CFSP has had an important impact in enhancing the EU's leverage and influence in many areas of the world.

¹⁶ CFSP operational expenditure is covered by a specific sub-section (Chapter 19 03) which is part of Title 19 (External Relations) of the Community budget.

¹⁷ The full list of operations and actions decided under the CFSP, including those with implications for the general budget of the European Union, can be found in the Annex.

81. In the spirit of the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement, and in implementation of the agreement reached between Council and European Parliament in the context of the budget procedure at the end of 2005¹⁸, the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies, represented by the Chairman of the Political and Security Committee, kept the European Parliament informed about activities funded by the CFSP budget line through the four "at least quarterly" joint consultations meetings held in 2006 with members of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Budget Committees. Moreover, in the exchange of letters between the Finnish Presidency and representatives of the European Parliament, a full list of opportunities to exchange views on the CFSP with the Council during the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies (in joint consultations meetings, committees and plenary sessions) was provided.¹⁹ Subsequent presidencies will fully honour their obligations under the new Interinstitutional Agreement and the accompanying letters.

2.3 - Actions foreseen for 2007

82. In line with the EU's growing capacity to undertake crisis management operations, there has been a rapid growth in the area of civilian crisis management in the past few years. Although it is not possible, due to the inherent nature of the CFSP, to make firm predictions as to the detailed needs, this trend and a corresponding increase in expenses to be financed can be expected to continue in the coming years.

83. The EU will have to deal with the possible continuation of currently ongoing civilian crisis management and conflict prevention operations and actions, without prejudice to decisions to be taken on possible changes in mandate, size etc or on the termination of these operations. The planned EU mission in Kosovo would be the biggest civilian crisis management operation carried out by the EU under the ESDP to date.

¹⁸ 15379/05 BUDGET 83

¹⁹ 15638/06. See also the updated list of the appearances by the Council in the European Parliament in the field of CFSP/ESDP in 2006 (doc. 7358/07)

It can be expected that the EU Kosovo operation will take up a large part of the CFSP budget in 2007. Also, the EU is likely to decide during 2007 on possible continuation and/or expansion of a number of existing activities: EUPM (Bosnia), actions in support of the Palestinian Authority²⁰, in the Democratic Republic of Congo²¹, and in Iraq, and the supporting action for AMIS in Sudan. Moreover, possible new actions may be started during 2007 with the possible ESDP mission to Afghanistan being a case in point.

84. As regards action in the area of WMD and SALW, a framework is set in particular by the EU WMD strategy, commitments with other countries (resulting from WMD clauses or the G8 "Global Partnership Programme"), the revised "List of priorities" for WMD as endorsed by the Council, and the EU strategy on SALW. In implementation of this policy, a number of projects can be foreseen subject to Council approval. For WMD this includes continued support for the activities of IAEA, OPCW, BTWC and CTBTO, chemical weapons destruction in Russia, physical protection of biological laboratories in Ukraine and support of activities under UNSCR 1540²².
85. Financing needs to be provided to enable the Council to appoint EUSRs as appropriate²³. An EUSR for Kosovo is expected to take office in 2007. It might also be decided to establish an EU representation to the African Union in Addis Ababa. The review and evaluation of EUSR mandates will remain an important factor in making the instrument as effective as possible. Measures necessary to ensure the security of the EUSRs and their respective teams will cause some additional expenditure.

²⁰ Further to the EUBAM Rafah, the "Agreement on Movement and Access at Border Crossing Points of Gaza" of 15 November 2005 also indicated other support as a possibility.

²¹ A review of EUSEC Congo is planned for mid 2007. An integrated approach to ESDP engagement in the field of security sector reform will be considered.

²² The continuation of existing projects in the fields of the non-proliferation of WMD and SALW into 2008 can be foreseen.

²³ Including expansion of EUSR BiH due to take over OHR activity and possible expansion of the activities of the EUSR South Caucasus support team in Georgia.

86. According to the EU counter-terrorism strategy "...assistance will be provided to priority countries to help them introduce and implement the necessary mechanisms to disrupt terrorism, in coordination with the work of other donors." Action financed through the CFSP budget could contribute to this. Support for the *Centre africain d'Etudes et de recherches sur le terrorisme* (CAERT) is an example of action envisaged in this area.
87. Improved procedures for rapid deployment of civilian ESDP crisis management operations have been identified as a priority. According to the revised Financial Regulation, CFSP budget subheading 19 03 05 (Preparatory and follow up action) can be used for the preparation of such operations. Adequate resources should be made available to meet this priority.

CHAPTER 3 - COUNTER TERRORISM

3.1 - Implementing the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

88. The first objective of the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy is to prevent people from turning to terrorism by fighting the factors that contribute to radicalisation and recruitment. To attain that objective, the EU adopted the Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment. In 2006, the Union continued its efforts to mainstream issues related to radicalisation and recruitment in its external counter-terrorism policy. It shared experiences and practice with external partners on how to tackle radicalisation. For the first time the EU also included the fight against radicalisation in a dedicated counter-terrorism technical assistance programme. The EU continued to promote respect for human rights and the importance of good governance and democratic institutions in its external relations. At UN level, the EU worked to expand the international legal framework for the fight against terrorism, in order to ensure the legitimacy of counter-terrorism policies. Inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue meetings were held in the framework of ASEM, the Barcelona Process and the Anna Lindh Foundation. In addition, at working level the Union developed its thinking on ways to improve its public diplomacy and its outreach to mainstream Muslims, both inside the Union and externally.

89. Since the adoption of the Action Plan for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism, an important start has been made in addressing the issue of radicalisation beyond the borders of the Union. Radicalisation and recruitment were already an important part of the EU's dialogue with third partners on counter-terrorism, but the EU has now also begun to address the problem through technical assistance. The EU has also made important progress in its thinking on dialogue and communication with regard to mainstream Muslims. Nevertheless, much remains to be done. Radicalisation and recruitment will be taken into account in future technical assistance programmes in the area of counter-terrorism and will remain an important topic for dialogue with third countries. The EU will further develop its public diplomacy and expand its outreach to mainstream Muslims in third countries.
90. Since 1 January 2005 links have been established between the **Counter Terrorism Group** and the reinforced Situation Centre to allow the latter to provide the Council with strategic terrorism threat assessments based on intelligence from national services. Analytical cooperation among security and intelligence agencies has been enhanced through the modernisation and expansion of the EU Situation Centre (2005), which has been providing frequent and high-level assessments of the terrorist threat to the Member States and the Commission.

3.2 Assistance to and political dialogue with third states

91. In 2006, the Council continued its efforts to implement the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As for the CFSP dimension of the Strategy, the EU concentrated on the provision of technical assistance, dialogue, and the inclusion of counter-terrorism provisions in agreements with third countries. The Council started the implementation of two extensive programmes of technical assistance and took initial steps to launch a third programme. The Union also took steps in preparation of future technical and financial support for the Counterterrorism Centre of the African Union in Algiers.

The EU continued its counter-terrorism dialogue, both at working and at political level, with key partners such as Russia, Australia and India, and in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The European Union continued to fight terrorism in close cooperation with the United States. EU-US cooperation covered a wide array of topics, ranging from an Interim Agreement on the processing and transfer of passenger name record data to the fight against the financing of terrorism. The EU participated in counter-terrorism meetings in the framework of regional organisations, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Asia Regional Forum and the Asia Europe Meeting.

92. The start of technical assistance programmes on counter-terrorism marks important progress on one of the key objectives of EU counter-terrorism policy. Important steps have been taken to expand EU technical assistance on counter-terrorism to at least one other key partner and to the African Union. At political level, the EU continued its fruitful cooperation with a great number of key partners, including the United States.

93. The main characteristics of the external counter-terrorism policy of the European Union will remain unchanged in the coming year. The EU's counter-terrorism dialogue with a great number of third countries remains an important tool for the exchange of views and experiences, the reinforcement of cooperation, and the enhancement of the international consensus on counter-terrorism. The Council will continue to concentrate on the expansion of its technical assistance to third countries and regional counter-terrorism centres. Adoption of a Joint Action governing assistance to the Counterterrorism Centre of the African Union is planned for the very near future. The Council intends to explore further possibilities for use of the CFSP budget for technical assistance projects in the area of counter-terrorism. In addition, the Council will work closely with the Commission to ensure that funds under the new Stability Instrument are used in a way that is coherent with EU counter-terrorism priorities.

3.3 - EU-UN cooperation

94. The EU continued to promote the key role of the UN in mobilising the international community against terrorism. The EU actively supported the adoption of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy (on 9 September 2006), which reflects the priorities of the EU's own strategy. The EU stands ready to implement this strategy in cooperation with all Member States of the UN. The EU continues to be committed to reaching an agreement on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) as soon as possible so as to complement and build on existing UN counterterrorism agreements and contribute to a deeper international consensus on the normative framework for the fight against terrorism. At bilateral and multilateral meetings with third countries, the EU actively promoted the ratification and full implementation, without unlawful reservations, of all 16 international counterterrorism Conventions and Protocols.
95. The adoption by consensus of a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes an important success in the fight against terrorism. The absence of unanimity on the Comprehensive Convention was disappointing, but cannot be ascribed to a lack of commitment on the part of the EU.
96. Implementation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy at EU level will be a priority for the Union in the near future. The EU intends to use its dialogue with external partners to promote full implementation of the Strategy and to exchange views on how that goal could be achieved. The European Union worked to achieve an international consensus on the Comprehensive Convention in 2006 and continues to view the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention as a viable objective for 2007.

CHAPTER 4 - NON-PROLIFERATION / DISARMAMENT / ARMS TRADE

4.1 - Implementing EU WMD strategy

97. The EU is actively implementing the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. A number of specific activities have been carried out to support multilateral organisations in the sphere of non-proliferation. Since the assessment of the activities under previous Joint Actions was positive, they have been or will be renewed:
98. On 20 March 2006, the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/243/CFSP²⁴ on support for activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in the area of training and capacity building for verification.
99. On 12 June 2006, the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/418/CFSP²⁵ on EU support for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) activities on the enhancement of the protection of sensitive materials, the detection of and response to illicit trafficking under the IAEA's Nuclear Security Programme, and legislative assistance for the implementation of the Additional Protocol. A financial amount of almost EUR 7 million was allocated to this Joint Action for the implementation of IAEA projects in the countries of the Balkan region, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Mediterranean region and Africa.
100. The EU Member States, which are all parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), are in the process of ratifying the amendments, which were agreed by a diplomatic conference in June 2005 and are aimed at strengthening and broadening the scope of the Convention.
101. Implementation of the Joint Action adopted by the Council on 22 November 2004, aimed at improving physical protection at the Bochvar Nuclear Research Institute of the Russian Federal Agency for Atomic Energy in Moscow, has now been launched after agreement on the modalities of the implementation has been reached with the Russian Federation.

²⁴ OJ L 88, 25.3.2006.

²⁵ OJ L 165, 17.6.2006.

102. Démarches have been carried out to promote the universalisation of international agreements such as the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).
103. On 20 March 2006, the Council adopted Common Position 2006/242/CFSP relating to the 2006 Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as well as an EU Action Plan on biological and toxin weapons, complementary to the EU Joint Action in support of the BTWC (2006/C 57/01). In addition, the EU Member States supported the main goal of the Common Position by submitting 7 working papers with concrete proposals on how to enhance the BTWC.
104. On 27 February 2006, the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/184/CFSP in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention which promotes the universalisation of the Convention through regional seminars as well as its national implementation through the provision of technical assistance.
105. The implementation of Joint Action 2005/913/CFSP of 12 December 2005 on support for OPCW activities continued. A major highlight was the regional workshop on the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention organised in Rome in October to promote awareness of the Convention among States in the Mediterranean Basin, the Middle East, and neighbouring regions. For the first time under this kind of initiative grants were disbursed to support the national authorities of selected countries. The Joint Action also allowed laboratories to receive equipment necessary for carrying out their tasks under the CWC and to hold two courses on Analytical Skills Development.

106. By the end of 2006, and since projects funded by the CFSP started to be implemented in 2005²⁶, 14 new countries had signed and ratified the CWC bringing the total number of OPCW Member States to 181. EU efforts in the three areas of activity: universality, national implementation and international cooperation, in line with the objectives of the EU WMD Strategy, are well acknowledged by OPCW Member States and the OPCW Technical Secretariat, thus enhancing EU visibility.
107. On 16 June 2006, the Council adopted a Joint Action in support of the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004). This Joint Action co-financed awareness-raising regional seminars for the Asia-Pacific, African and Latin America-Caribbean regions in 2006. These regions are lagging the furthest behind in terms of compliance with the obligations of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004).
108. The EU Presidency carried out démarches to Russia and the US to promote national implementation of the Hague Code of Conduct.
109. The Presidency and the Troika continued their efforts to ensure that all the new Member States were included in export control regimes.
110. The Peer Review foreseen in the EU Strategy against the proliferation of WMD was completed in 2004. Implementation of its recommendations was taken forward as a priority by the Council Working Party on Dual-Use Goods in 2005 under the leadership of the Luxembourg and United Kingdom Presidencies and in 2006, by the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies. Achievements during 2006 are listed in a report noted by the Council on 11 December 2006 (16507/06).

²⁶ Since 2004 the EU has allocated EUR 3,4 million of CFSP funds to support OPCW activities through two Joint Actions: 2004/797/CFSP and 2005/913/CFSP.

111. The Office of the Personal Representative on non-proliferation, in cooperation with Commission services, organised an ad hoc Export Control meeting with Ukrainian experts in Kyiv in January 2006, and an Export Control Workshop with Pakistani experts in Islamabad in December 2006. In addition, the Federal Office of Economic and Export Control in Germany, mandated to implement the Commission-funded 2005 pilot project, in coordination with the Council Working Party on non-proliferation and the Council Working Party on Dual Use Goods, has organised export control seminars, in which experts from Member States have participated, in China, Serbia and Montenegro, the United Arab Emirates and Ukraine.
112. Negotiations on the inclusion of a WMD clause into agreements have been successfully completed with almost 90 countries, while negotiations with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro are close to completion. New negotiations are envisaged for 2007: a WMD component has been added into Action Plans with various countries.
113. On 11/12 December 2006 the Council endorsed a concept paper on "monitoring and enhancing consistent implementation of the EU Strategy against the proliferation of WMD". The WMD Monitoring Centre offers a cooperative working method between the Council Secretariat, Member States and the Commission as requested by the WMD Strategy. The focal point of the Centre is the Council Secretariat (Office of the Personal Representative for non-proliferation).
114. Efforts to work for a diplomatic solution of the Iranian nuclear issue continued throughout 2006. As a consequence of the Iranian resumption of uranium enrichment activities in early 2006, the EU supported a move to report the issue to the UN Security Council. In June 2006, a package of incentives in the nuclear, economical and political field, developed by France, Germany and the United Kingdom, with the support of the EU High Representative, as well as by China, Russia and the US, was presented by the EU High Representative to Iran. Due to Iranian failure to comply with the requests of the IAEA Board of Governors and the UN Security Council, i.e. to return to the suspension of all enrichment related activities, further action by the UN Security Council was undertaken.

Resolution 1696 was adopted on 31 July and, subsequently, in the light of continued Iranian refusal to comply, Resolution 1737, which set a deadline of 60 days for Iran to comply with the suspension request and imposes a series of sanctions targeting the proliferation sensitive areas in the nuclear and missile field, was adopted on 23 December 2006.

The EU agreed to implement these measures broadly on the basis of the criteria of the UN Security Council Resolution.

115. The EU remained seriously concerned by developments in relation to the DPRK's nuclear and missile programmes during 2006. The EU strongly condemned the ballistic missile test of July 2006 and the nuclear test carried out in October 2006. Following UNSC Resolution 1718, adopted by the UNSC as a reaction to the nuclear test carried out by the DPRK, the Council adopted Common Position 2006/795/CFSP which bans amongst others all items on the EU Common List of Military Equipment. The EU has continued its participation in the KEDO framework and will remain a member of KEDO in the winding-down of the organisation during the first half of 2007. At the same time, the EU remains ready to contribute to a solution to the situation on the Korean peninsula once one has been found in the framework of the six-party talks.

4.2 - Implementing SALW strategy

116. On the basis of the EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition²⁷ adopted by the European Council in 2005, various activities have been undertaken.
117. A delegation including representatives from the EU Presidency, the Office of the HR's Personal Representative on non-proliferation, the European Commission and the European Parliament presented a comprehensive overview of EU activities to support the fight against illicit SALW in the margins of the UN Review Conference of the 2001 UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons²⁸ (New York, 26 June - 7 July).

²⁷ 5319/06

²⁸ Also referred to as the UN SALW PoA

The Office of the HR's Personal Representative on non-proliferation has been active, in conjunction with the Presidency and the Commission, in presenting the EU SALW strategy at different international fora such as the OSCE, the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly in February 2006, etc. Contacts with the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs - Subcommittee on Security and Defence have been regular.

118. In 2006, with a view to the Review Conference of the UN PoA, the Presidency carried out 42 démarches to present the EU's views and approach for a successful UN SALW Programme of Action Review Conference. SALW have been given appropriate attention on the agenda of a number of meetings with some of those countries.
119. On concrete projects, during 2006 CFSP funds have allowed for EU initiatives in Western Africa²⁹ (EUR 515 000), Ukraine³⁰ (EUR 1 000 000) and Latin America³¹ (EUR 700 000). This last initiative was adopted in 2006. These projects implement Council Joint Action 2002/589/CFSP of 12 July 2002 on the European Union's contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons³².
120. Since its adoption in 2005, the EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition (EU SALW Strategy) has become an important milestone in the definition of the EU's role as a major player in the fight against the accumulation and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition. The Strategy has provided a clear identification of priorities and objectives, which ought to be followed by the EU as a whole and by its Member States when addressing SALW-related problems. The EU SALW Strategy calls for consistency and complementarity between EU initiatives within the CFSP framework and those actions implemented by the European Commission through Community funds. The Strategy contributes to the way the EU is perceived by third countries (recipients and other donors) and helps to strengthen the position of the EU not only as donor but also as a credible SALW policy advocate.

²⁹ Council Decision 2004/833/CFSP of 2 December 2004, OJ L 359, 4.12.2004, p. 65.

³⁰ Council Decision 2005/852/CFSP of 29 November 2005, OJ L 315, 1.12.2005, p. 27.

³¹ Council Decision 2006/1000/CFSP of 11 December 2006, OJ L 367, 22.12.2006, p. 77.

³² OJ L 191, 19.7.2002, p. 1.

121. Geographically, the EU SALW Strategy has identified sub-Saharan Africa as a major area of concern. The Council's competent bodies have been studying this issue with a view to launching new initiatives. The proliferation of SALW in Latin America and the large stockpiles of SALW and ammunition in Ukraine also represent an area of concern.

4.3 - Code of conduct on arms exports

122. In the eighth year of operation of the European Code of Conduct, significant progress in its implementation has again been achieved. The quality and transparency of the annual report have been further improved, and the Council Working Party on Conventional Arms Exports (COARM) has intensified its activities aimed at convergence of national procedures and policies based on the Code. Work has been carried forward, inter alia, in the following areas:

123. The User's Guide, an essential tool summarising agreed guidance for the implementation of operative provisions of the Code, and intended primarily for use by export licensing officials has been further expanded, especially by including best practice for the interpretation of criteria 3 and 4 of the Code of Conduct.

124. In accordance with the mechanism agreed in 2004 to improve the coordination of outreach activities undertaken by Member States in order to promote the principles and criteria of the Code among candidate countries and other third countries, a number of measures were taken, e.g. outreach seminars for the countries of the Western Balkans.

125. COARM Troika meetings have been held by each Presidency respectively with the United States, Canada, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Norway in the framework of the political dialogue of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.

126. The European Union and Member States played an active role in securing the adoption by the UN General Assembly on 6 December 2006 of the resolution "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms" (cf. GAERC conclusions of 11 December 2006, 16692/06).

127. Eight years of application of the Code of Conduct have shown that the fundamental elements of a common approach to the control of conventional arms exports by the Member States are well and truly in place; the Code's status as the most comprehensive international arms export control regime has been reconfirmed. However, there is still work to be done in certain areas that have not been addressed in the past, or where further work is necessary to consolidate and build on the results achieved.

CHAPTER 5 - EARLY WARNING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

5.1 - Early warning

128. The **EU Joint Situation Centre (SITCEN)** continued to contribute to the early warning work of the Council supporting, inter alia, work on conflict prevention. It undertook situation assessment, issuing more than 150 reports per year to Council bodies on major issues in the field of CFSP and the threat posed to the Union by terrorism. The SITCEN was assisted in its work through the secondment of national experts in analytical functions, who worked together with Council officials. It benefits from exchanges of information with the Member States, including with their diplomatic, intelligence and security services. Its assessment work was undertaken in close collaboration with the Intelligence Division of the EU Military Staff.

5.2 - Annual conflict prevention report

129. In 2006, conflict prevention continued to be a key EU objective. Conflicts and their impact were prevented and/or managed through the use of a wide range of EU instruments, including diplomatic/political action (for example in the Middle East, Lebanon, the DRC and Sudan), EU civilian and military operations/missions (notably in Aceh, but also in Sudan and in the other EU missions) and projects in Security Sector Reform and the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of former combatants (including in Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau, Liberia) as well as in natural resource management (EU Water Initiative, assessment missions in the Kimberley Process).

The Action Plans of the European Neighbourhood Policies were another important new instrument.

130. Close cooperation continued between the Council/Member States and the Commission in support of CFSP conflict prevention objectives, including in support of the EU Border Assessment Missions in Rafah and in the Republic of Moldova, EUPOL COPPS in the Palestinian Territories and the Aceh Monitoring Mission in Indonesia. There was also close cooperation in preparation for potential missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo.
131. Efforts have again been made to engage more closely with major international organisations, in particular the UN, NATO, OSCE, ASEAN and the African Union, as well as with bilateral strategic partners such as Canada, China, Japan, Russia and the US. This cooperation has covered a wide variety of activities, including the sharing of information, the development of common or closer approaches and messages, the financing of capacity building, and the planning and management of Peace Support Operations.
132. The EU's relationship and cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society also developed further. Workshops and conferences organised in March, May September and November 2006 involving experts from NGOs committed to conflict prevention, civilian crisis management and peace-building, Members of the European Parliament as well as officials from Member States, the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council and major international organisations, provided opportunities to share best practices and examine possibilities for more concrete cooperation in conflict prevention and management.

In November 2006, the PSC endorsed a set of recommendations for enhancing co-operation with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the framework of Civilian Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention."

The "Conflict Prevention Partnership" consisting of four NGOs has also effectively contributed to the improvement of the EU's activities through elaborating country and region specific reports.

133. The Annual Report adopted by the European Council in June 2006 on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention, including the implementation of the Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts adopted in 2001, provides a comprehensive picture of the ongoing efforts by the European Union in this field.
134. In 2007, the EU will work to further strengthen its conflict sensitive approach and its early warning mechanisms, and will continue to cooperate closely with international partners, including non-state actors, across the spectrum of conflict prevention activity.

CHAPTER 6 - PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

6.1- Priorities

135. The **protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms** is one of the founding principles of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and this principle has been systematically stressed in the EU's bilateral relations as well as in its activities in multilateral fora and in particular in the United Nations Human Rights Council established in March 2006 and in the Third Committee of the General Assembly. In addition to continuing to address human rights violations around the world, the EU played an active role in the promotion of respect for human rights.
136. As regards the pursuit of its priorities in promoting respect for human rights, the EU continued its efforts to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the five EU human rights guidelines (on the Death Penalty, on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on Human Rights Dialogues, on Children in Armed Conflicts and on Human Rights Defenders). A review of the Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, with the active involvement of the EU Heads of Mission and civil society actors, was welcomed by the Council in June 2006. The review addressed detailed recommendations to all concerned actors and will remain a reference document.

The Implementation Strategy for the Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict and the Check-list for the Integration of the Protection of Children Affected by Armed Conflict into ESDP Operations were endorsed by the PSC respectively in April and June 2006.

137. The Working Group on Human Rights (COHOM) sought to follow up a wide range of steps to ensure coherence and consistency, mainstreaming, openness, and a regular review of priorities, in the EU's human rights and democratisation policy. In this regard the Council of 11 December 2006 adopted conclusions on the implementation of the EU policy on human rights and democratisation in third countries. As a contribution to the coherence and continuity of the EU human rights policy, with due regard to the responsibilities of the Commission, the Personal Representative of the SG/HR for Human Rights in the CFSP area contributed to the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the EU institutions and enhanced the EU's visibility in multilateral fora and EU human rights dialogues.

With regard to mainstreaming human rights in the EU's external policy, increasing attention is being paid to the human rights aspects of crisis management. In November 2006, the Council adopted conclusions on promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in crisis management. The military crisis management operation "EUFOR DR Congo" was the first ESDP mission to include a gender adviser. In June the Political and Security Committee (PSC) endorsed a paper on Mainstreaming Human Rights across Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and other EU policies.

138. In confronting human rights violations in countries in all regions of the world, the EU called on the governments concerned to redress the situation through a variety of instruments, including statements, démarches and declarations. It continued to conduct its human rights dialogue with China and its consultations on human rights with the Russian Federation, two meetings of which took place in 2006. Due to a lack of willingness from the Iranian side no EU human rights dialogue was held with Iran.

139. As in previous years, the EU held consultations on human rights issues with the US, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and candidate countries focusing, in particular, on UN human rights issues.

140. A new European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights for the years 2007 - 2013 was adopted by the Council and the European Parliament in December 2006 and entered into force on 1 January 2007.

141. One of the main positive developments in 2006 was the exercise of mainstreaming human rights into CFSP and ESDP activities and the active implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights. Presidencies and the Personal Representative of the SG/HR for human rights made presentations in various thematic and geographic working groups of the Council to raise awareness of EU human rights policy. Regarding the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights, the different campaigns continued with a focus on women human rights defenders.

The EU Annual Human Rights Forum gathered about 150 human rights activists, governmental officials as well as representatives from EU institutions to Helsinki on 7-8 December 2006. The theme for the Forum was Mainstreaming Human Rights and Democracy in European Union Policies. Women human rights defenders figured prominently on the agenda of the event.

142. The mainstreaming exercise and the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights will be pursued actively in 2007 in particular with the possible drafting of a new set of EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of the rights of children as well as a possible new EU Dialogue on Human Rights with Uzbekistan.

6.2 - EU acting within UN Human Rights Council and Third Committee

143. The establishment of the **Human Rights Council** (HRC) in March 2006 was welcomed by the EU as an important step in the process of UN reform. With a more standing nature and a new election system where members are expected to make human rights-related pledges, the creation of the new body was seen in the context of strengthening the UN human rights machinery.

144. Conclusions on the Human Rights Council were endorsed by the Council on 15 September 2006. The Council welcomed the important steps taken since the establishment of the HRC in terms of standard setting in the area of human rights, in particular the adoption - at the first HRC session - of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The second session contained a successful interactive dialogue with the special procedures. The consensus decision adopted by the second session allowed the continued reporting of the Special Procedures and the functioning of other mechanisms. The third session was devoted to the first formal stock taking on institutional issues.
145. During the first year of its existence, three special sessions (July, August, November) relating to the situation in the Middle East have taken place. A priority for the EU has been to address the alarming human rights situation in Darfur at the HRC. A special session on Darfur was convened on 12 December 2006. A unanimous decision was taken to dispatch a high level mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur in early 2007. The EU also tabled a draft resolution on Sri Lanka leading to the establishment of a National Commission of Enquiry into human rights abuses.
146. At the **Third Committee** of the **61st session of the UN General Assembly**, the EU introduced country resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Burma/Myanmar, which were both adopted, with a no-action motion being presented but rejected on the latter. Other country resolutions supported by the EU and adopted included the Canadian resolution on Iran and the US text on Belarus, as well as resolutions on torture, rights of the child and human rights protection in counter-terrorism. The US-led resolution on Uzbekistan could not be debated due to a "no-action" motion. The EU thematic resolution on religious intolerance was also adopted by consensus as well as an EU thematic resolution of summary executions. The EU-led cross-regional statement on the death penalty gained a total of 85 signatories and was published as an official UN document. The concrete outcomes in the area of human rights standard setting include the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and an Optional Protocol thereto. The EU took actively part in the drafting process of the Convention.

147. The EU stepped up its outreach activity, as cooperation between countries from different regions has been determined as being among the key means of achieving an effective HRC and Third Committee. In this context, the active involvement of the Personal Representative of the SG/HR on human rights has played an important role.
148. From the start of work on the creation of the **HRC**, the EU has aimed to ensure that this new body is equipped with the tools as well as the spirit to maintain human rights in the central role envisaged by the UN Charter. The EU emphasises that the HRC is still an evolving body, with its working methods not yet fully developed. One of the crucial steps by mid -2007 will be the establishment of the universal periodic review mechanism and the outcome of the review of mandates of human rights special procedures.
149. It is important to ensure that serious human rights violations continue to be addressed effectively by UN human rights fora. The EU will continue to play an active role, in cooperation with others, so that the Council and the Third Committee achieve more tangible results in future sessions.
150. More detailed information on the EU's human rights policy is set out in the EU Annual Report on Human Rights 2006, which was published in December 2006 (5779/07 COHOM 9).

PART II

CFSP AND ESDP - PRIORITIES IN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

CHAPTER 1 - WESTERN BALKANS

1.1 - Horizontal issues

151. In 2006, the EU continued to consolidate the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and the 2003 Thessaloniki Agenda, which confirmed the European prospects of the Western Balkan states³³.
152. In January 2006 the Commission adopted a Communication entitled, “**The Western Balkans on the road to the EU: consolidating stability and raising prosperity**”, which set out concrete measures to reinforce EU policy towards the Western Balkans. The informal EU - Western Balkans Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Salzburg in March 2006 welcomed the Communication and expressed the intention to take forward its implementation. In a press statement the participants reaffirmed their full support for the agenda set out at the Thessaloniki summit in 2003, as well as for the Stabilisation and Association Process which would remain the framework for the European course of the Western Balkan countries.
- In June 2006 the European Council confirmed that the future of the Western Balkans lies in the European Union. Each country's progress towards the European Union will continue to depend on individual merits in meeting the conditions and requirements set forth in the Copenhagen criteria and in the Stabilization and Association Process, including full cooperation with the ICTY and maintaining good neighborly relations.

³³ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo in terms of UNSCR 1244, Montenegro, Serbia

153. On trade, the Council very much welcomed the modernised **Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA)**, enlarged to all parties, which was signed in Bucarest on 19 December after intensive negotiations moderated by the Commission and the Stability Pact. The agreement represents a major step forward in regional cooperation and economic development. Another concrete measure aiming at reinforcing the EU's Western Balkan policy was the adoption by the Council in 2006 of mandates to the Commission to negotiate visa-facilitation and readmission agreements with all of the Western Balkan states. It is hoped that these **agreements** will be completed in 2007, thereby increasing people-to-people contacts with the citizens of the region.
154. As for the **Stability Pact** for South Eastern Europe, the Council renewed the mandate of the Coordinator of the Stability Pact for another year. The process of transfer of the ownership of the Stability Pact to the countries of the region and the establishing of a new structure as regional successor of the Pact is expected to be finalised during that period. In this respect, a Regional Cooperation Council will be established in order to assist the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP). This step will ensure continued strong and effective coordination of regional cooperation through the common efforts of the SEECP, the EC and the international community.
155. The Council also extended the mandate of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) until its closure by the end of 2007.
156. In terms of moving closer to Europe, 2006 also marked the signature of another **Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA)** with a Balkan state, namely Albania, which became the third country after Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to sign an agreement with the EU. Both Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia now have EU candidate status, and Croatia began EU accession negotiations in 2005. SAA Negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina and with Montenegro, moved forward in 2006. Serbia's negotiations with the EU for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) were frozen in May 2006 because of Serbia's failure to co-operate fully with the ICTY.

The Council remains fully committed to Serbia's EU perspective and is ready to restart the frozen SAA negotiations with a new government in Belgrade, provided it shows clear commitment and takes concrete and effective action for full co-operation with ICTY.

157. Throughout 2006, the EU was involved in the international efforts led by UN special envoy Martti Ahtisaari to find a solution for the **future status of Kosovo**. Due to the early postponement of parliamentary elections in Serbia in January 2007, the presentation of Mr Ahtisaari's draft proposal, which was expected for the autumn of 2006, was rescheduled. President Ahtisaari presented his draft proposal to Belgrade and Pristina on 2 February 2007. Meetings with the parties on this proposal started in Vienna on 21 February. The EU remains committed to playing its part in the future Kosovo set-up and agreed in 2006 to start preparations for a substantial EU engagement in Kosovo, including in the area of the police and rule of law.

1.2 - Croatia

158. In the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) and the political dialogue, Croatia was strongly encouraged throughout 2006 to continue to make progress in terms of the Copenhagen political, economic and *acquis* criteria, and in implementing its SAA. In 2006 Croatia signed a single regional Free Trade Agreement, based on an enlarged and amended CEFTA, and concluded bilateral free trade agreements with all Southeast European countries. Given the importance of progress in the aforementioned areas for Croatia's accession process and the need for coordination in the region of the Western Balkans, this work continued to be useful and valuable. Croatia made some progress in its relations with its neighbours and continued to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In 2007 Croatia is expected to build on progress made and to accelerate the pace of reforms, notably in the key areas of judicial and public administration reform, the fight against corruption and economic reform. Croatia should also continue to fully cooperate with the ICTY. Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, including border disputes, remain issues of key importance where further progress needs to be achieved.

All these issues will continue to be closely followed and discussed in full accordance with relevant European Council conclusions, the Negotiating Framework for Croatia and the Accession Partnership³⁴.

1.3 - FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

159. In February, the Council extended the mandate of Erwan Fouéré as EUSR for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (financial reference amount: EUR 675 000) until 28 February 2007.³⁵ Since 1 November 2005, Erwan Fouéré has exercised both the functions of EUSR and Head of the Commission Delegation.

The main activities of the EUSR throughout 2006 have been focused on offering advice and facilitation in the political process. EUSR Fouéré has also continued to promote the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, contributing to general political stability and inter-ethnic dialogue. The EUSR furthermore conducted political oversight of the European Police Advisory Team (EUPAT)³⁶ until its termination in June 2006.

160. The June European Council called on all parties in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to ensure that the 5 July parliamentary elections were conducted in line with international standards. In July the Council welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections and the ODIHR's assessment that they were conducted largely in accordance with international standards. The Council noted with concern the incidents of violence during the beginning of the electoral campaign and stressed that such irregularities should be investigated and addressed so that they did not recur.

161. The European Council in December noted that the candidate country status of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was recognition of the country's reform achievements. The European Council called for accelerating the pace of reforms in key areas and for the implementation of the priorities identified in the European Partnership in order to progress towards the goal of moving ahead in the accession process.

³⁴ OJ L 55, 25.2.2006, p.30

³⁵ Joint Action 2006/123/CFSP, OJ L 49, 21.2.2006, p. 20

³⁶ Joint Action 2005/826/CFSP, OJ L 307, 25.11. 2005, p. 61

162. The main challenges for the EUSR during 2007 will be to support the country in its EU integration efforts, and to offer advice and facilitation in the political process, including by fostering constructive dialogue between the political parties. The EUSR will also promote the full and effective implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, including as regards decentralisation, equitable representation and implementation of the Law on Police. He will furthermore continue to ensure a full synchronisation of EUSR- and EC-led activities in the country.

During 2007 the Council will continue to pay close attention to developments in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Council's annual review in the autumn, on the basis of the Commission's progress report, will provide an opportunity to assess the country's progress in fulfilling the necessary conditions and requirements for moving ahead in the EU accession process.

1.4 - Albania

163. On 12 June, the EU and Albania signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement and accompanying Interim Agreement. In conclusions adopted the same day, the Council welcomed the signature as an important step on Albania's path towards the EU, and looked forward to a sustained and effective track record in implementing the agreements. The Council called on Albania to push ahead with its reform agenda and encouraged the political forces to unify their efforts to accelerate that process. Noting encouraging steps in the fight against corruption and organised crime, it stressed the importance of further sustained progress. Similarly, the June European Council welcomed the signature of the SAA and encouraged Albania to push ahead with its reform process.

164. In December, the Council welcomed the entry into force of the Interim Agreement. While noting certain encouraging steps, the Council stressed the need for further progress on reforms, including the fight against organised crime and corruption and the full respect of independent judicial institutions. The Council also stressed the need for the government and opposition to work together to prepare for the 2007 local elections.

165. In 2007, the Council will continue to follow developments in the country, including as regards the local elections scheduled in February, and will assess progress in implementing the SAA and the Interim Agreement.

1.5 - Bosnia- Herzegovina (BiH)

EUSR Bosnia-Herzegovina

166. On 30 January 2006, the Council appointed Mr Christian Schwarz-Schilling as EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina with effect from 1 February 2006 until 28 February 2007.³⁷ The financial reference amount intended to cover expenditure related to the implementation of the EUSR mandate was in the order of EUR 770 000.
167. On 25 July 2006, the Council amended the mandate of the EUSR BiH in order to enable him to support planning for a future reinforced EUSR office in the context of the closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR).³⁸ The financial reference amount for the implementation of the amended mandate of the EUSR was increased to EUR 1 090 000. In line with his responsibilities under Article 2 and 3 of the Council Joint Action 2006/49/CFSP, as amended by Joint Action 2006/49/CFSP, Dr Christian Schwarz-Schilling continued to promote the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and of the priorities listed in the European Partnership document of 2006. The EUSR continued to conduct political oversight of the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in keeping with his role in the chain of command and to provide the EU Force Commander with local political advice.

³⁷ Joint Action 2006/49/CFSP

³⁸ Joint Action 2006/523/CFSP

Elections

168. The Council welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the general elections, held on 1 October 2006. Conducted largely in accordance with international standards, the general elections were entirely managed by domestic institutions for the first time after 1995. The increased turnout (in comparison to the general elections of 2002) was in part due to the newly introduced Passive Voter Registration system. The Council welcomed the formation of the new BiH Government so as to restore momentum on reform.

EUFOR Althea

169. In December 2006, the Council reviewed Operation Althea and welcomed the positive contribution of the operation to the safe and secure environment in BiH. In the light of the evolving security situation in the country, the Council decided in principle on a change in EUFOR's posture. The definitive decision to start the transition was taken in February 2007. Operation Althea will reduce its size but keep a military presence. EUFOR will maintain the capacity to react throughout the country to any possible security challenges, and reserve forces will be available over the horizon. EUFOR will continue to provide support to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) including the detention of Persons Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWCs).

EUPM

170. The Mission will operate with a refocused mandate until 31 December 2007³⁹. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the mandate was EUR 9 000 000⁴⁰. In 2006 all 25 EU Member States, together with eight non-EU contributing states, participated in the Mission comprising 414 staff (166 international police officers, 29 international civilian experts and 219 national staff).

³⁹ OJ L 307, 25.11.2005, p. 55.

⁴⁰ OJ L 307, 25.11.2005, p. 55.

171. EUPM has supported the Police Restructuring process in BiH through the Head of Mission's membership of the Steering Board of the Directorate for Police Restructuring Implementation in BiH (DIPR). The DIPR's work was concluded on 22 December with the presentation of the *Proposed Plan for the Implementation of the Reform of Police Structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina*.
172. EUPM's Criminal Justice Interface Unit (CJIU) identified and addressed deficiencies in the area of police and prosecutorial cooperation and focuses on enhancing both general and case-specific cooperation contributing to strengthening the integrity of the criminal justice system in BiH.
173. In relation to the Police, EUPM continued to follow its co-location methodology which had been reviewed and re-organised. As of 1 October 2006 EUPM has fully assumed the lead in the coordination of policing aspects of ESDP efforts in the fight against organised crime. It assists local authorities in planning and conducting major and organised crime investigations. In 2006, as part of its regular review process, EUPM completed an assessment of organised crime in BiH, enabling the Mission to strengthen its focus on supporting the fight against organised crime, which will be the main key objective for 2007.

Reinforced EU engagement in BiH in 2007

174. In June 2006, the Political Directors of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board agreed with the plans for the Office of the High Representative (OHR) to begin preparations to close on 30 June 2007.⁴¹ In the context of the planned closure of the OHR, the Council agreed to reinforce the EU's presence in BiH. To this end, the Council amended the mandate of the EUSR in order to enable him to support planning for a reinforced EUSR office, including advice on public information aspects of the transition.

⁴¹ However, in its meeting on 26-27 February, the PIC Steering Board decided against confirming OHR closure at this time. The aim now is OHR closure by 30 June 2008. The PIC Steering Board agreed to review the situation at its meetings in October 2007 and February 2008.

Future perspective

175. The *technical* negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) were successfully completed by the end of 2006. However further progress remains necessary in police reform, public broadcasting reform, public administration reform and full cooperation with ICTY in order to sign an SAA with the European Union.

Progress on constitutional reform is also encouraged so as to create more functional state structures that are better able to meet European standards.

Building on the recommendations spelled out in the joint report by the SG/HR and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, preparations will continue for the reinforced EU presence in BiH in the context of the planned closure of the Office of the High Representative.

1.6 - Serbia/Montenegro

Serbia

176. Since calling off the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) negotiations on 3 May due to failure to comply with the ICTY conditionality, the EU has tried to find new ways and means to help Serbia increase its cooperation with the ICTY and to further strengthen the EU-Serbia relationship outside the scope of the SAA through an enhanced political dialogue.

On 17 July the EU Ministerial Troika met with Prime Minister Kostunica. An Action Plan for strengthened cooperation with the ICTY was handed over to the EU. The Union urged Belgrade to follow up the plan with concrete measures. No substantive action was, however, undertaken by Belgrade. The September Council expressed its readiness to resume negotiations on a SAA with Serbia as soon as the ICTY conditionality was met. On 16 October a second troika meeting with Serbia was held and the Council expressed its readiness to continue enhanced political dialogue with Serbia in order to support its European course, including the resumption of the negotiations on an SAA as soon as full cooperation with ICTY was achieved. In parallel a debate was conducted within the EU on how to best support Serbia on its European course. Much attention was given to visa facilitation and new scholarships for Serbia in order to increase people-to-people contacts.

At the end of November the Council adopted Master Messages on Serbia as a basis for a forceful and concerted approach delivering encouraging messages on the European perspective of Serbia.

177. The election results provide an opportunity for Serbia to establish a new, reform-oriented coalition government, committed to cooperating with the ICTY and with a clear EU orientation. Coalition building will however not be easy, being influenced by the ongoing Kosovo status process, ICTY compliance, privatisation interests etc. The outcome is not easy to predict. What is clear though is that the composition of this government, its programme and its ability to deliver concrete results swiftly will be crucial to pave the way for positive developments in EU-Serbia relations in 2007 and beyond.

Serbia and Montenegro

178. On January 30 the Council recognised that the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro allowed the republics to hold a referendum on independence three years after its adoption. It also stressed that the conformity of such a process with internationally recognised democratic standards would be a critical element for stability and for the pace of progress towards the EU. In this respect, the Council supported the recommendations of the Venice Commission. It called on all political forces in Montenegro to cooperate with each other and with SG/HR Javier Solana's Personal Representative, Mr Miroslav Lajcak, to agree on the conduct and implementation of the proposed referendum to provide the process and the outcome with the necessary legitimacy and sustainability.
179. On 27 February the Council welcomed the progress made so far by the government and the opposition in Montenegro in defining the modalities for the proposed referendum. It called on both parties to reach a rapid agreement on the remaining open issues. In its May conclusions the Council reiterated the importance of a fair and orderly referendum process. It called on both sides to comply with the referendum law and provisions, to refrain from unilateral actions and to accept the outcome of a legitimately conducted referendum. The Council noted that direct talks between Belgrade and Podgorica on the way ahead would be needed in the aftermath of the referendum, whatever the outcome.

180. The referendum took place on 21 May 2006. A special law on referendum adopted on 1 March 2006, stated that 55% of the valid votes cast had to answer "yes" to the question: "Do you want the Republic of Montenegro to be an independent state with full international and legal personality?" for Montenegro to become independent, provided that 50 % of the registered voters cast their ballot. The pro-independence side, led by Prime Minister Djukanovic, won with 55.5%. The turnout was nearly 87%. The intense internal dialogue on the modalities of the referendum, and between Podgorica and Belgrade, facilitated by the EU, rendered the process legitimate also in the eyes of the opposition and the outcome was accepted by all parties, including Belgrade.
181. On 3 June 2006 the Council took note that the Parliament of Montenegro had passed a Declaration on the Independence of the Republic of Montenegro following the referendum on 21 May. Furthermore the Council noted that, following the abovementioned Declaration, the Parliament of Serbia had passed a Decision that defined the Republic of Serbia as the continuing State of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. The Council recognised that these Parliamentary Acts were taken in conformity with the Constitutional Charter of the State Union.

Montenegro

182. The clarity of the referendum process and its acceptance by all parties in Serbia and Montenegro facilitated a united and swift response from the EU. At the 3 June Council the EU and its Member States decided that they would develop their relations with the Republic of Montenegro as a sovereign, independent State, taking full account of the referendum result and the aforementioned Parliamentary Acts. Member States would take the subsequent measures implementing this decision nationally in accordance with international law and practice. All 25 Member States recognised the independence of Montenegro and Serbia as the successor state of Serbia and Montenegro within weeks. The 3 June Council also called on Serbia and Montenegro to pursue a direct and constructive dialogue on their future relations. The European Union made clear it stood ready to support this dialogue. The 17 July Council decided to extend bilateral political dialogue at ministerial level to Montenegro.

The Council also agreed to invite Montenegro to align itself with EU démarches, declarations and common positions on CFSP issues.

183. Montenegro held parliamentary elections on 10 September. At its September meeting the Council welcomed the peaceful and orderly conduct of the elections and looked forward to the smooth formation of a new Government and a swift adoption of a new Constitution, fulfilling European standards. In this respect, the Council stressed the necessity of a continuous dialogue between the new government and the opposition. The Council also welcomed the Commission's intention to re-launch the Stabilisation and Association Agreement negotiations with Montenegro and adopted a new mandate enabling the Commission to negotiate with Montenegro. The SAA negotiations were resumed shortly thereafter. The technical negotiations were successfully completed by the end of 2006, making it very likely that the SAA will be signed during the spring of 2007. The government that was established about two months after the elections presented a clear pro-EU programme. The signing of the SAA and the clear commitment by the government to move forward with its reform programme will provide a good basis for positive progress in EU-Montenegro relations. The Parliament of Montenegro officially started its process to adopt a new Constitution in January 2007. The outstanding issues are linked to symbols defining the new state (language, civic state or recognition of different ethnicities, anthem, church etc) and might take some time to negotiate.

1.7 – Kosovo

184. Since 2005, the Council has been working on an enhanced EU role in Kosovo, on the basis of reports by the High Representative and the Commission. The rule of law and police have been identified as priority areas. In April the Council adopted a Joint Action⁴² establishing an EU planning team (EUPT) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in Kosovo in the field of rule of law and possible other areas that might be identified by the Council in the context of the future status process. The financial reference amount for the period until 31 December 2006 was EUR 3 005 000.

⁴² Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP of 10 April 2006, OJ L 112, 26.4.2006, p. 19.

The Head of EUPT, Casper Klynge, was appointed by the Political and Security Committee on 2 May 2006⁴³ and his mandate was extended on 12 December 2006⁴⁴. On 11 December 2006 the Council adopted a further Joint Action⁴⁵ amending and extending the mandate of EUPT Kosovo until 31 May 2007, with a financial reference amount for the extended period of EUR 10 545 000.

185. EUPT Kosovo is based in Pristina, with a liaison presence located within the Council Secretariat in Brussels. EUPT Kosovo commenced formal operations in Pristina on 6 June 2006. The work of EUPT Kosovo is undertaken on the basis of close cooperation and the exchange of information with all international stakeholders in Kosovo, in particular with UNMIK on transition arrangements, with NATO/KFOR on security issues and with the OSCE on training and monitoring.
186. In July the Council was briefed by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari. It reiterated its full support for his efforts in conducting the political process to determine Kosovo's future status. The Council welcomed his intention to move forward into direct political talks on the status issue. It called upon both sides to engage constructively in this phase of the negotiations.
187. The Council noted the report on the implementation of standards for Kosovo presented to the UN Security Council by the SRSG on 20 June 2006. It noted the progress reported and stressed again the crucial importance of, and the need for, further accelerated and effective implementation of the Standards. The Council urged Belgrade to encourage Serbs in Kosovo to participate in Kosovo's institutions, in which they could most effectively advocate their own interests.
188. The Council welcomed the joint report by the SG/HR and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement on the future EU role and contribution in Kosovo. It asked the SG/HR and the EU Commissioner for Enlargement to continue examination of these issues, in the light of the European Council conclusions of 15-16 June 2006, in coordination with other international actors and to keep the relevant Council bodies actively engaged in order to ensure continuing timely preparation for the future EU role in Kosovo.

⁴³ OJ L 130, 18.5.2006, p. 42.

⁴⁴ OJ L 365, 21.12.2006, p. 88.

⁴⁵ Joint Action 2006/918/CFSP of 11 December 2006, OJ L 349, 12.12.2006, p. 57.

The Council stressed the need for a well coordinated EU presence in Kosovo. The Council welcomed the early deployment of the planning team in preparation for an ESDP mission in the broader field of the rule of law and asked the SG/HR to continue to provide information on progress made.

189. On 15 September the Council adopted a Joint Action ⁴⁶ on the establishment of an EU team to contribute to preparations for the establishment of a possible international civilian mission in Kosovo, including an EUSR component (ICM/EUSR Preparation Team, led by Mr Torbjörn Sohlström). The team is working together with the international community and Kosovo institutions, in close coordination with EUPT Kosovo and with the UN interim administration mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

190. In October, after an in-depth discussion, the Council urged the parties to engage constructively with the UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari to bridge the gaps between their respective positions and to refrain from unilateral or provocative action.

In this context, the Council again reiterated its full support for Special Envoy Ahtisaari and his efforts in conducting the political process to determine Kosovo's future status. It welcomed his intention to prepare a comprehensive settlement proposal as a basis for moving forward.

191. The Council also took note of the report by the SRSG presented to the UN Security Council on 13 September. It noted the positive progress made in implementing the Kosovo Standards while recalling the crucial importance of, and the need for, further effective implementation of the standards. The Council urged Belgrade to encourage Serbs in Kosovo to participate in Kosovo's institutions, in which they could most effectively advocate their own interests. The Council also welcomed the important preparatory work underway for a possible ESDP mission in the broader field of the rule of law and for the EU component of the future International Civilian Mission in Kosovo.

⁴⁶ Joint Action 2006/623/CFSP of 15 September 2006, OJ L 253, 16.9. 2006, p. 29.

192. In December the Council noted progress in Kosovo in the transfer of responsibilities to the provisional institutions of self government, while recalling the crucial importance of further effective implementation of the Kosovo Standards. It noted enhanced efforts were needed to create an administrative environment that would allow for further approximation towards European standards. The Council stressed the need for further efforts regarding the rule of law and the independence of the judicial system, the fight against organised crime and corruption, macroeconomic stability, and in particular, the protection of minorities and cultural heritage.
193. On 11 December 2006, the EU Council also adopted the Crisis Management Concept for a future ESDP mission. This envisages a civilian ESDP mission focusing on the broader field of the Rule of Law. The ESDP mission envisaged would provide mentoring, monitoring and advice in the broad field of the rule of law; it would also have executive responsibilities in some areas of policing, including crowd and riot control, and in justice and customs.
194. EUPT Kosovo will continue its work on the basis of the concepts endorsed by the Council in December and in full cooperation with local authorities and international stakeholders. Further planning will proceed according to progress in the status process, since the mandate of the future mission will be determined by the status settlement.
195. The EU has been firmly engaged in Kosovo and will remain so. The EU's preparations for its contribution to the post-status international presence in Kosovo are well underway. The EU Preparation Team for the future International Civilian Office (ICO) is working closely on the ground in preparing the transition and the establishment of the ICO together with UNMIK and the Kosovo authorities. Work is well advanced. The establishment of the EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo) has been of crucial importance to enable early and comprehensive planning for a possible future civilian ESDP mission in Kosovo. Since its launch in April 2006, EUPT Kosovo has established close relationships with all the key local and international actors in Kosovo and has provided essential input to the decision-making process in Brussels. With the support of the Commission, the World Bank and EU Member States, Kosovo's authorities are preparing the Kosovo Development Strategy and Plan (KDSP).

A fully-fledged donors' conference will be called soon after the status settlement with the aim of securing the front-loading of the donors' support. Finally, efforts to promote the European prospects of Kosovo continue. This process would be accompanied by some EUR 194,2 million in aid allocated for the period 2007 – 2009 in the Instrument for Pre-accession assistance for Kosovo

CHAPTER 2 - EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

2.1 - Russia

196. The seventeenth EU-Russia Summit on 25 May in Sochi addressed a wide range of issues concerning the EU-Russia relationship, in particular energy, regional and international issues, and the new EU-Russia agreement, negotiations to start in 2007. It was agreed that the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement would remain valid until a new agreement was in force. The Summit also assessed the four Common Spaces created at the St Petersburg Summit in May 2003 (Economy; Freedom, Security and Justice; External Security; Research and Education, including Cultural Aspects).

It was noted that since the adoption of detailed road maps for each of the Spaces at the Moscow Summit on 10 May 2005, they had led to a positive dynamic and momentum in EU-Russia cooperation. Furthermore, agreements on visa facilitation and on readmission were signed in the margins of the Summit.

197. The eighteenth EU-Russia Summit was held on 24 November 2006 in Helsinki. The main focus of discussions was on improving EU-Russia cooperation, especially in the energy field.. Numerous issues were discussed, in particular developments in EU-Russia relations during the preceding six months, including implementation of the four Common Spaces, and regional and international issues. Although the Summit could not launch negotiations for a new EU-Russia agreement, it was noted that work on the EU side would continue to enable the EU negotiating mandate to be adopted as soon as possible. Furthermore, a Protocol on the progressive abolition of Siberian overflight payments was signed.

198. Throughout the year, the EU and Russia maintained a particularly intensive political dialogue, at political level and at expert level. The areas of cooperation extended from various geographical areas (in particular the Middle East and the Balkans) to various horizontal issues, such as the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, crisis management and terrorism, as well as cooperation in various international organisations (in particular the UN and OSCE). In this context, special priority was given by the EU to countries in the common neighbourhood of Russia and the enlarged EU. Numerous contacts took place between the EUSRs for the Republic of Moldova, the South Caucasus and Central Asia and the Russian authorities.
199. Several meetings of the Permanent Partnership Council (PPC) were held in 2006 in various formations: Foreign Ministers on 3 November in Brussels, Justice and Home Affairs on 21-22 March in Moscow and 30 October in Helsinki, Environment on 10 October in Helsinki, Transport on 8 September in Lappeenranta and Energy on 8 December in Moscow.
200. The fourth and fifth round of EU-Russia consultations on human rights were held on 3 March in Vienna and 8 November in Brussels. These consultations provide a unique forum where the EU and Russia can discuss the internal human rights situation in the European Union and Russia, as well as international human rights issues. The EU raised specific concerns about the human rights situation in Russia, notably the situation in Chechnya, media freedom including the assassination of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, the situation of NGOs after the entry into force of the law on NGOs, the implementation of the law on countering extremist activity, and respect for the rule of law.
201. The Presidency attended the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committees on 25-26 January and 22-23 November, and addressed the AFET Committee and INTA Committee on Russia on 24 January and 12 July respectively.
202. Relations between the EU and Russia developed positively in many areas during 2006. Flows of trade and investment have been steadily increasing. The four Common Spaces have produced visible results and the road maps have proven to be a productive framework for EU-Russia cooperation.

While cooperation under the Common Economic Space is developing particularly well, there is still a lot of room for intensifying cooperation and dialogue under the Common Space of External Security, especially as regards the Common Neighbourhood. The EU and Russia should in particular seek increased dialogue on how progress towards a solution of the "frozen conflicts" can be achieved. The agreement on visa facilitation will improve people-to-people contacts, including in the business, cultural and scientific fields.

However, there are still a number of key outstanding issues for the EU in its relations with Russia, including the ban by Russia on imports of meat products from Poland, which has led to a delay in the start of negotiations on a new agreement.

203. The EU hopes to start negotiations on a new agreement as soon as possible in 2007, which should provide a comprehensive and durable framework for the EU-Russia strategic partnership.

2.2 – Ukraine

204. Relations between the EU and Ukraine became closer and deeper across the spectrum of bilateral cooperation in 2006. Ukraine made good progress in implementing the ENP Action Plan, adopted in February 2005. Good cooperation in the field of foreign and security policy continued, especially regarding the Transnistrian conflict and the EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM). Ukraine continued to make good use of the possibility of aligning itself on a case-by-case basis with EU CFSP declarations and common positions. In addition to regular political dialogue meetings, Policy Planning Talks between HR Solana's Policy Unit and the Ukrainian MFA took place in February 2006.
205. Consolidation of the achievements of the Orange Revolution continued: parliamentary elections held in March 2006 were free and fair, and freedom of the media and other political freedoms were respected by the authorities.
206. After the March elections, the EU started consultations with Ukraine over a new Enhanced Agreement which is to replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement after 2007.

At the Summit held on 27 October, the EU and Ukraine agreed on a joint, comprehensive and ambitious approach to the new Agreement, including - after Ukraine's accession to the WTO - a free trade area as an important element thereof. As regards CFSP, the agreement is to further deepen and operationalise cooperation on foreign and security policy matters between the EU and Ukraine, including in terms of Ukraine's participation in EU-led crisis management operations.

207. EU-Ukraine visa facilitation and readmission agreements were initialled at the Summit and are likely to enter into force in the course of 2007.
208. The free and fair parliamentary elections gave an important positive impetus to EU-Ukraine relations. However, the elections were followed by political instability. It took over four months before a government was formed, and there was a lack of clarity over the composition of the coalition in the months that followed. Although, importantly, the domestic difficulties did not violate the basic principles of democracy, they did slow down the reform process, a reform process which is of key importance to EU-Ukraine relations.
209. The launch of negotiations between the EU and Ukraine on a new Enhanced Agreement was announced during the Foreign Minister's Troika to Kyiv in February 2007. A first meeting for negotiations will take place on 5 March in Brussels. The negotiations will be a key priority of the relationship in 2007. Another important priority is continued implementation of the ENP Action Plan.

2.3 - Belarus

210. In 2006, serious concern over developments in Belarus persisted, with growing oppression of political opposition parties and groups, the independent media and civil society. Presidential elections held on 19 March violated international electoral standards, and were deemed by the EU to be "fundamentally flawed".

211. The EU applied a two-track policy towards Belarus. First, following the flawed elections, the EU put in place a visa ban and assets freeze against those responsible for abuse and misconduct during the electoral process and in its aftermath⁴⁷, including against President Lukashenko. As a consequence of further repressive steps against the opposition, the list of targeted persons was extended in October 2006⁴⁸. The measures were targeted against those who were personally responsible and did not negatively affect the population at large.
212. Second, the restrictive measures were balanced by a proactive policy of engagement, aimed at building the preconditions for democratisation through active engagement with civil society, the opposition and non-political levels of the administration. In this context, a Director-level EU Troika visited Belarus on 18 and 19 December explaining to the Belarusian authorities and civil society the EU's offer to engage with Belarus in partnership, as well as conditionality attached to this offer.
213. The gas and oil disputes between Belarus and the Russian Federation at the end of 2006 and beginning of 2007 highlighted both regional vulnerabilities and the EU's own energy security. HR Solana and the Presidency were also in touch with both sides to the dispute, urging a negotiated and sustainable solution.
- The visa ban and assets freeze against Belarusian authorities are valid until 10 April 2007. Before then, the EU will review these restrictive measures in the light of domestic developments in Belarus.

2.4 - Republic of Moldova

214. Relations between the EU and the Republic of Moldova have further deepened and widened. Implementation of the ENP Action Plan, which was adopted in February 2005, continued. The Republic of Moldova has aligned itself on a case-by-case basis with EU declarations and common positions.

⁴⁷ Council Common Position 2006/276/CFSP (OJ L 101, 11.4.2006, p. 5), amended by Council Common Position 2006/362/CFSP (OJ L 134, 20.5.2006, p. 45); and Council Regulation (EC) No 765/2006 (OJ L 134, 20.5.2006, p. 1).

⁴⁸ Council Decision 2006/718/CFSP (OJ L 294, 25.10.2006, p. 72) and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1587/2006 (OJ L 294, 25.10.2006, p. 25).

215. In February, the Council adopted Common Positions⁴⁹ renewing and amending sanctions against those in the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova who were responsible for preventing progress towards a settlement of the Transnistria conflict, and for two people responsible for the school crisis of summer 2004.
216. The EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova has been very active. His budget, financed from the CFSP budget, was EUR 1 030 000 for the period of March 2006 to February 2007⁵⁰. The EUSR represented the EU in the Transnistria settlement negotiations (so-called 5 + 2 talks), participated in EU- Republic of Moldova meetings, held consultations with the Moldovan and Transnistrian authorities, with the mediators Russia, Ukraine, and the OSCE, with the US, and with other interested parties, in particular Romania. The EUSR briefed the Parliament - both the Moldovan Delegation and, on 23 November, the Committee for Foreign Affairs (AFET). Throughout the year, he was in close touch with the Head of the Moldovan Delegation. The EUSR liaised closely with the European Commission, in particular the Commission's team on Transnistria. A Commission representative was present in the EUSR's team in the 5 + 2 talks.
217. The EUSR participated in the Advisory Board Meetings of the EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), which is organised and financed by the Commission. The Head of EUBAM, General Banfi, wears a second hat as Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR to ensure political overview and a close link with the PSC and with HR Solana. An EUSR team member is based in the EUBAM Headquarters in Odessa. The EUSR visited all EUBAM Field Offices and the Headquarters. He was in close touch with the Head of EUBAM throughout the year. Some trips were made jointly.
- The EUSR has an additional advisor based in Kyiv and two advisors based in Chisinau. All are seconded by Member States.

⁴⁹ Council Common Position 2006/95/CFSP of 14 February 2006, OJ L 44, 15.2.2006, p. 31 and Council Common Position 2006/96/CFSP of 14 February 2006, OJ L 44, 15.2.2006, p. 32.

⁵⁰ Council Joint Action 2006/120/CFSP of 20 February 2006, OJ L 49, 21.2.2006, p. 11.

EUBAM and the EUSR monitored the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Customs of the Moldovan and Ukrainian Prime Ministers of December 2005, which started in March 2006. This has re-established a common regime on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border and a registration and reimbursement mechanism for Transnistrian companies. More than 270 companies from Transnistria engaged in export activities are now registered in Chisinau and have the opportunity to conduct their business legally, in particular business with companies in the EU.

In June, Moldovan President Voronin visited Brussels for his annual consultations with the EU, meeting with HR Solana. The EUSR participated in the meeting.

218. The EUSR participated in a donor coordination meeting for the Republic of Moldova, which was held in Brussels in December, organised jointly by the Commission, World Bank and IMF. In 2007, ENP Action Plan implementation will continue. There remain challenges, in particular in the fields of rule of law, media, human rights and the fight against corruption.
219. The Transnistria conflict remains a major challenge. The 5+2 talks, stalled since February 2006 due to Transnistria's unwillingness to participate, have to be brought back on track.
220. EUBAM's initial two-year mandate expires in November 2007. The Council and the Commission are likely to seek to prolong EUBAM because of its successful contribution to greater order and transparency on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. The prolongation of EUBAM is likely to be in the EU's interest, in particular after Romania's accession to the EU, which made the Republic of Moldova a direct neighbour. However, for such a prolongation, a request by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine is needed. EUBAM was created initially at the joint request of the Moldovan and Ukrainian Presidents.
221. The current EUSR for the Republic of Moldova, Ambassador Jacobovits de Szeged, resigned after two years in office and will be replaced as of 1 March 2007 by Mr. Kalman Mizsei.

2.5 - South Caucasus

222. 2006 witnessed a substantial development of relations between the EU and the three South Caucasus countries. Two EU Troikas visited the South Caucasus: a Troika Mission at Secretary of State level visited the three countries on 19-22 April 2006 and a Ministerial Troika Mission visited the region on 2 and 3 October 2006. The Cooperation Committees with the three South Caucasus countries took place in October 2006 in Brussels and the three Cooperation Councils took place on 14 November 2006 also in Brussels. During the Cooperation Councils on 14 November, the ENP Action Plans were formally adopted. This marked a new phase in the relationship between the EU and the three South Caucasus countries. President Ilham Aliyev visited Brussels in November 2006. During this visit, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 7 November aimed at establishing an energy partnership with Azerbaijan.
223. The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Semneby has a political mandate to contribute to conflict prevention and assist with conflict settlement (Joint Action 2006/121/CFSP of 21 February 2006⁵¹). During 2006, the EUSR for the South Caucasus regularly visited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, enhancing the EU's political dialogue with those countries and increasing the visibility of the European Union in the region. EUSR Semneby has paid particular attention to the situation in Georgia, including the internal conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and also Russian-Georgian relations, as well as the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Ambassador Semneby met regularly with the political leadership of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and with the Council of Europe, OSCE, Russia, Turkey and the United States.
224. In 2006, EUSR Semneby visited the European Parliament twice: on 5 October (Presentation to the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the situation in the South Caucasus and EUSR activities in the region) and on 9 November (Presentation to the EP-South Caucasus Delegation - Briefing on Human Rights and Rule of Law in Georgia).

⁵¹ OJ L 49, 21.2.2006, p.14.
Total allocation: EUR 2 960 000 for 2006 commitment (5342/06).

225. During 2007, Ambassador Semneby will continue to assist Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in carrying out political and economic reforms, notably in the fields of rule of law, democracy, human rights, good governance, development and poverty reduction. In Armenia, the Parliamentary elections on 12 May 2007 will be an important test for Armenia's adherence to the principles and commitments of the ENP Action Plan and to the OSCE and Council of Europe commitments. Ambassador Semneby will also, in accordance with existing mechanisms, contribute to the prevention of conflicts and assist in creating the conditions for progress on settlement of conflicts.

The EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia has helped focus Georgia's attention on the need for border security reform and has achieved good progress on many important issues. The planned extension of the mandate of the EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia for 12 more months (to 29 February 2008) will allow the BST to change focus to advice at a strategic level and to continue follow-up on the implementation of reforms at border level.

The EUSR will also proceed with the implementation of measures in support of conflict resolution in Georgia. He will also work closely with the Commission on the implementation of the ENP Action Plans with the three countries in the South Caucasus.

2.6 - Central Asia

226. 2006 was marked by the intensification of concrete steps aiming at developing closer and more active relations with the countries of Central Asia, which culminated in the European Council of December 2006 calling on “the German Presidency to take forward the work on an EU strategy on Central Asia with a view to its adoption at the European Council meeting in June 2007”. The Finnish Presidency undertook extensive preparatory work for the EU strategy.

227. A number of high-level visits and meetings took place throughout the year. The third Regional Dialogue meeting between the EU and five Central Asian countries took place in April in Almaty, for the first time at Ministerial (State Secretary) level.

The annual Cooperation Councils with Kazakhstan (July), the Kyrgyz Republic (July) and Uzbekistan (November) reaffirmed the mutual desire to see EU-Central Asian relations continue to strengthen politically, economically and commercially, especially in the context of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements. The Joint Committee meeting with Turkmenistan, including the Ad Hoc Human Rights Dialogue, took place in June in Ashgabat, while the Joint Committee meeting with Tajikistan was organised in Dushanbe in December. A meeting of EU HOMs in Central Asia in October in Astana served as a starting platform for informal preparations for the EU strategy for Central Asia. Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner visited the region in October.

228. Ján Kubiš, Special Representative of the European Union for Central Asia, travelled extensively in the region and worked closely with various regional and international partners in order to enhance the EU's effectiveness and visibility in Central Asia as well as to contribute to strengthening stability and cooperation between the countries in the region. Upon Mr Kubiš' appointment as Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic and his subsequent resignation in July, the Council appointed Mr Pierre Morel as the new EUSR for Central Asia⁵². Mr Morel has since travelled extensively in the region and has successfully continued the initiatives started by his predecessor. His efforts were especially valuable in view of the protracted political crisis in the Kyrgyz Republic, gradual EU re-engagement with Uzbekistan following the deterioration of EU-Uzbekistan relations after the Andijan events, the change of leadership in Turkmenistan and preparatory work for the EU strategy for Central Asia. Mr Morel was also active in discussing the planned EU initiative with the US, Russia and China.

229. In May the Council expressed its concern about the situation in Uzbekistan and regretted that there had been no progress in the field of human rights in general, nor, in particular, in the follow-up of the events in Andijan of May 2005. The Council reiterated that restrictive measures agreed by the European Union on 3 October 2005 remained in place, but it noted that the Union was available for a serious dialogue with Uzbekistan.

⁵² Council Decision 2006/670/CFSP of 5 October 2006, OJ L 275, 6.10.2006, p. 65

During the Cooperation Council on 8 November the Uzbek side proposed to organise a meeting between the EU and Uzbek experts in Tashkent on the Andijan events and to start a regular dialogue with the Union on human rights. In view of these developments, on 13 November the Council reviewed restrictive measures against Uzbekistan⁵³; technical meetings under the PCA were reinstated in order to bring about, through dialogue, compliance by Uzbekistan with the principles of respect for human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms; visa restrictions were extended for a further 6 months; and the arms embargo was extended for a further 12 months. The Council decided to review these measures after 3 months taking into account the actions of the Uzbek authorities in the area of human rights. In December 2006, EU and Uzbek experts met in Uzbekistan to discuss the events in Andijan. Exploratory talks on the EU-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue took place in Tashkent, also in December. The first meeting of the EU-Uzbekistan human rights dialogue is likely to take place in the first half of 2007

230. The key focus in 2007 will be on the development, adoption and then implementation of the new EU strategy for Central Asia, reflecting also on the EU's relationship with Uzbekistan.

CHAPTER 3. MEDITERRANEAN REGION AND TURKEY

3.1 - Horizontal Issues

231. During the past year, activities within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership have focused on the implementation of the Five Year Work Programme as well as of the Euro-Mediterranean Code on combating terrorism, both adopted by the 10th Anniversary Barcelona Summit which took place in Barcelona from 27 to 28 November 2005, and which jointly agreed on ambitious targets for political and economic reforms, which are to be implemented, inter alia, with support from the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument, as well as further developing socio-cultural exchanges and cooperation.

⁵³ Common Position 2006/787/CFSP, OJ L 318, 17.11.2006, p. 43

Nevertheless, the challenges during this period, as was demonstrated by the cartoons crisis as well as the Lebanon war, showed the great need for the EU to promote closer cooperation and understanding, in order to ensure stability in the region.

232. Under the Austrian Presidency, Partners agreed to develop and deepen dialogue on ESDP and security issues with a view to strengthening cooperation, on a voluntary basis, in conflict prevention, partnership building measures and crisis management activities. At an ad hoc meeting on ESDP held on 31 May 2006, discussion focused, inter alia, on participation in an orientation course of the European Security and Defence College as well as in an Institute for Security Studies Seminar, to be co-organised in a Partner country.
233. Under the Finnish Presidency, the Tampere Euromed meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs underlined their support for the further implementation of the Five-Year Work Programme of November 2005, including support for the ongoing Partnership Building Measures, notably the Euromed Malta seminars, the EuroMeSCo network of foreign policy institutes, and the cooperation on civil protection, in particular in the framework of the Euromed Intermediate Bridge project on civil protection, which extended its activities to March 2008 and which aims at fostering an effective Euromed system for the mitigation, prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters.

The Tampere meeting agreed to pursue, inter alia, implementation of the Euromed Code of Conduct; to work on priorities for cooperation on energy; to prepare for the Ministerial Conference on Migrations; to ensure the launching of a scholarship scheme for university students from the region and the holding of a Ministerial Conference on Higher Education; and to work on the implementation of the action plan agreed by the Istanbul first Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society.

234. The parliamentary dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership has also been strengthened through regular appearances of Presidency representatives before the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, exchanging views on the implementation of the above objectives.

235. With regard to the European Neighbourhood Policy, in October 2006, under the co-decision procedure and in first reading with Parliament, the EU adopted the new financial cooperation instrument⁵⁴ for the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, for the period 2007-2013, with a total budget of EUR 11.181 billion, a 45% increase in comparison to 2000-2006 (32% in real terms). The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument follows on from the assistance provided under the MEDA and TACIS regulations. It aims at promoting enhanced cooperation and progressive economic integration, building on the agreements concluded between the EU and the partner countries.
236. The subsequent period, under the German and Portuguese Presidencies, will concentrate on further reinforcing this cooperation through the organisation of several events agreed at the Tampere Ministerial meeting; during the German Presidency the focus will be on the areas of social dialogue, energy efficiency, the holding of a Euromed Youth Parliament session, education including the launching of scholarships with a view to setting up a Euro-Mediterranean Area of Higher Education, and the exchange of experiences in the area of elections.
237. Furthermore, emphasis will be given to strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy inter alia through the implementation of the existing Action Plans aiming at supporting the Neighbours' reform efforts.

⁵⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

3.2 - EU-Turkey

238. In the framework of the Association Agreement and the enhanced political dialogue in 2006, Turkey was strongly encouraged to pursue the political reform process and to ensure its full and effective implementation, to step up efforts as regards fundamental freedoms and human rights (in particular freedom of expression, freedom of religion, women's rights, minority rights, trade union rights and civilian control of the military), to contribute to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework and in line with the principles on which the Union is founded, to take steps towards normalisation of its bilateral relations with all EU Member States, including the Republic of Cyprus, to fully implement in a non-discriminatory manner the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement, to terminate its policy of impeding Cyprus' accession to international organisations and arrangements and to work towards implementation of paragraph 4 of the Helsinki European Council conclusions (outstanding border disputes). International issues of mutual interest (e.g. Iraq, Iran, MEPP) were also widely discussed. Given the importance of the reform process for progress in Turkey's accession process and the need for exchange of views and coordination in key international issues, these meetings continued to be useful and valuable. For the same reasons meetings are also scheduled for 2007. Close monitoring and evaluation of progress in the reform process - in full accordance with relevant European Council conclusions, the Negotiating Framework for Turkey and the Accession Partnership⁵⁵ - will continue to be at the core of the discussions. The Cyprus issue and Turkey's relations with EU Member State Cyprus, outstanding border disputes as well as international issues of mutual interest will also continue to be covered in this dialogue.

Participation in ESDP operations

239. In 2006 the Republic of Turkey participated in two military crisis management operations (Althea in BiH and EUFOR RD Congo in DRC) and in two police missions (EUPM in BiH and EUPOL Kinshasa in DRC) under ESDP.

⁵⁵ OJ L 22, 26.1.2006, p. 34

Framework Participation Agreement

240. On 29 June 2006, an Agreement was signed between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey establishing a framework for the participation of the Republic of Turkey in European Union crisis management operations.

This Agreement covers the legal and financial framework for such participation in both civilian and military ESDP operations. The Republic of Turkey has not yet ratified the Agreement.

Military Capability Development

241. Within the **Headline Goal 2010** process Turkey, alongside other non-EU European NATO members, has contributed to the Supplement of the Force Catalogue 2007.

Turkey participates in one **Battlegroup** (IT-RO-IT, led by IT) scheduled for the second semester of 2010.

Due to a lack of consensus among the participating Member States, negotiations for establishing administrative arrangements between the EDA and Turkey could not be concluded.

CHAPTER 4 - MIDDLE EAST / GULF

4.1 – Middle East Peace Process

242. The European Council noted with concern that the Middle East is faced with one of the worst crises in years. The Israeli-Arab conflict is at the heart of this crisis. The EU is committed to overcoming the current impasse in the peace process and to easing tensions in the broader region.

243. 2006 started with the holding of elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council preceded by an electoral process that was assessed as free, fair and secure by Ms de Keyser, Head of the EU Election Observation Mission, and by the international community. The elections resulted in a clear victory for Hamas. In reaction, the EU together with its Quartet partners expressed the opinion that the Palestinian people had the right to expect that a new Palestinian government would address their aspirations for peace and statehood, and welcomed President Abbas' affirmation that the Palestinian Authority was committed to the Roadmap, previous agreements and obligations between the parties and a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was the EU's and the Quartet's view that the platform of a future Palestinian government must reflect the principles of non-violence, the recognition of Israel and the acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.
244. The new Hamas-led government, which was sworn in at the end of March, did not subscribe to these principles which led the Council to recall that the absence of such commitment would inevitably have an effect on direct assistance to that government, while stating that it would continue to provide necessary EU assistance to meet the basic needs of the Palestinian population. To this effect a Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) was launched by the EU in June, following consultations within the EU as well as with Quartet members, major donors, international financial institutions and partners in the region. This mechanism played a vital role in providing essential relief to a large part of the Palestinian population and was extended until March 2007. The EU's combined assistance in 2006 to the Palestinian people exceeded EUR 650 million.
245. Besides its involvement in the TIM operations, the EU did not lose sight of the importance of preserving and strengthening the capacity of the institutions of the Palestinian Authority. In the current circumstances work was continued with those institutions with which the EU could engage, especially in the context of EU BAM Rafah and EUPOL COPPS. EU BAM Rafah, which monitored crossings of Palestinians at the re-opened Rafah Crossing Point between Egypt and the Palestinian territories (Gaza Strip), was particularly successful. The High Representative welcomed the 100 000th crossing in February; by the end of 2006, approximately 350.000 crossings had taken place.

In November, the Council decided to extend EU BAM Rafah for a further six months.

However, an unconstrained and permanent operation of the crossing was interrupted after the abduction of an Israeli soldier near the Karem Shalom crossing point on 25 June.

246. The continued efforts of President Abbas towards national unity and the formation of a government with a platform reflecting the Quartet principles did not produce concrete results until the end of 2006. The year, however, ended in a conciliatory way: following a meeting on 23 December between PM Olmert and President Abbas a part of the withheld Palestinian customs and tax revenues was transferred.

247. In 2006, the growing EU presence and influence on the ground were sustained under difficult circumstances. The EU's position as a key partner in the field of security issues, institution building and donor coordination was widely recognised by regional and international partners. The two ESDP missions in the Palestinian territories continued to produce results. On the political front, the EU played a vital role in keeping the consensus among Quartet Partners.

The Quartet Statement of 20 September 2006 reflected the EU's insistence on a credible political process between Israel and the Palestinians. SG/HR Solana and his Special Representative (EUSR Otte) managed to highlight the centrality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the EU through intensive dialogue with partners in the region, as well as in Quartet consultations and international contacts.

248. The EU continues to work towards the ultimate goal of an end to the occupation and the creation of a Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel, as well as security and normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab states. For the EU, concrete steps on issues such as access and movement, capacity building and security sector reform are essential, but only as part of a broader political ambition.

ESDP Missions

249. Two ESDP Missions in the Palestinian Territories were in operation in 2006, the EU Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah) and the EU Police Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS).
250. Two main political developments in the region had a serious impact on their operations: the first was the Hamas victory in the Palestinian legislative elections on 25 January 2006, resulting in the adoption by the Quartet on 30 January of the three principles (non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap). The failure of the new government to commit to these principles effectively halted all EU activities connected to the government.
251. The second key event was the escalation of violence erupting in Gaza and triggered by the abduction of Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) Corporal Gilad Shalit by Hamas militants on 25 June. This resulted in protracted clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian militias, the subsequent arrest by Israel of Hamas senior officials, including government ministers and legislators and later in violence between Hamas and Fatah. The worsening of the security situation mainly affected the operation of the Rafah Crossing Point, which since then has only been open on 33 of the 190 days available before the end of the year.

EU Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah)

252. On 12 December 2005, following the 'Agreement on Movement and Access', reached between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on 15 November 2005, the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP establishing the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) at the Rafah Crossing Point. The Mandate of the Mission was later extended by six additional months by Joint Action 2006/773/CFSP of 25 November 2006. The financial reference amount intended to cover the mission's expenditure was EUR 1 696 659 for 2005 and EUR 5 903 341 for the period from 1 January 2006 until 24 May 2007. Major-General Pietro Pistolese (Italy) is the Head of Mission of EU BAM Rafah.

253. The aim of EUBAM Rafah is to provide a Third Party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point in order to contribute, in cooperation with the Community's institution-building efforts, to the opening of the Rafah Crossing Point and to build up confidence between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.
254. Pending the possible extension of the EUBAM Rafah's mandate after 24 May 2007, a number of EU actions, including capacity building and infrastructural improvements to the Terminal, will aim at allowing the passage of vehicles and goods between Gaza and Egypt, thus giving a much needed trade outlet to the Gazan economy.
255. Despite the protracted closures, EUBAM Rafah has contributed to relieving the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, with more than 350.000 persons able to cross the checkpoint since the beginning of the mission. It also proved, with the work of the Kerem Shalom Liaison Office, that Israeli and Palestinian officials can efficiently work together thanks to a third party presence.

EU Police Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS)

256. EUPOL COPPS was launched on 1 January 2006, on a three-year mandate, under the leadership of Head of Mission Jonathan McIvor. The mission aims at supporting the Palestinian Authority in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements, to assist in the implementation of the Palestinian Civil Police Development Plan, advise and mentor senior members of the Palestinian Civil Police and criminal justice system, and to coordinate EU and, where requested, international assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police. On 21 November 2006, the PSC adopted a decision to appoint a new Head of Mission, Colin Smith, whose mandate started on 1 January 2007. The financial statement for 2007 amounts to EUR 2.8 million
257. During 2006, despite the limits posed by the EU policy of non-engagement with the current Palestinian government, EUPOL COPPS achieved some limited results:

- creating and maintaining a communication network in Gaza for the Palestinian Security Forces;
- refurbishment of the Jericho Training Centre for Palestinian Security Forces;
- course on Explosive Ordnance Disposal for the Palestinian Civil Police;
- the Understanding the Palestinian Security Sector project, developed to gain insight into Palestinian security sector thinking in order to better position EUPOL COPPS for its mandated task;
- a number of assessments and studies on the Palestinian Criminal Justice system and on PCP Criminal Investigation capacity.

258. EUPOL COPPS forwarded its 6-month report to Member States on 22 January 2007, including recommendations on possible future Mission activities. The EU will continue to consider the scope of the mission's activities in light of the political situation and in line with Quartet policy.

4.2 - Lebanon

259. The first half of 2006 was characterised by a significant upgrading of bilateral relations between the EU and Lebanon. Shortly after the entry into force of the Association Agreement (1.4.2006), the first Association Council was held in Brussels on 11 April 2006. After just two negotiating rounds, a political agreement was reached on 18 May 2006 on an ENP Action Plan, by which the EU would support political and economic reforms in the country, in which, albeit not without difficulties, a "national dialogue" had been taking place since March.

260. These positive developments were interrupted by the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel in July and August 2006 caused by the attack of Hezbollah on Israeli soldiers. The heavy military confrontations claimed many lives and numerous injuries on both sides and caused extensive damage to houses and infrastructure, especially in Lebanon.

The EU provided urgent humanitarian relief to the affected Lebanese population, including hundreds of thousands of displaced persons.

261. On 11 August 2006 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1701 as the basis for a cessation of hostilities and the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces along the Southern border. It also mandated a reinforced UNIFIL, to which the EU contributes the large majority of forces.
262. At the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early recovery on 31 August, the EU and its Member States pledged almost EUR 200 million in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction funds.
263. During the internal political crisis in Lebanon, which culminated in the resignation of 6 Shiite and Christian ministers in November 2006, the EU urged all parties to refrain from violence and to prevent an escalation of the situation. The EU called for a solution through dialogue and with full respect for the democratic institutions of Lebanon.
264. By contributing over 40 % of the total pledges of USD 7,6 billion at the international conference in support of Lebanon held in Paris on 25 January 2007, the EU sent a strong message of support to the people of Lebanon and its legitimate and democratically elected government. The EU declared its support for the ambitious Programme on Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform adopted by the government of Lebanon on 4 January 2007, notably its social component, as well as the commitment in principle to the signing of a post-conflict agreement with the IMF. The adoption of the EU-Lebanon Action Plan in the context of the Neighbourhood Policy on 19 January 2007 will be instrumental in deepening cooperation between the EU and Lebanon within the framework of the Association Agreement and the Barcelona Process.
265. The EU will stay committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon.

4.3 - Syria

266. The EU reiterated at the end of 2006 that its policy towards Syria could evolve, depending on the approach chosen by Syria itself towards constructive engagement in Lebanon and in the Middle East Peace Process.
267. At the same time the EU upheld its firm position vis-à-vis Syria in 2006, clearly spelling out its expectations as to the constructive role to be played by Syria in the region, notably concerning Lebanon. The EU thereby supported the UN action which started with UNSCR 1559 aimed at the re-establishment of the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon, and called for compliance with UNSCR 1701, in particular with regard to the arms embargo. The EU continued to request Syria's comprehensive cooperation with UNIIIC and expects the Syrian authorities to recognise and cooperate with the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The EU reminded Syria and other regional actors of the need to end all interference in Lebanese internal affairs and to actively engage in the stabilisation of Lebanon and the region, in order to be in a position to develop normal relations with the international community and the EU.
268. Beyond the regional situation, the EU followed with concern the deterioration of the human rights situation in Syria during 2006, which was also deplored by the European Parliament in its resolutions of June and October. The commitment shown by Syria towards respect for human rights will be an important factor for the EU in its policy towards Syria.
269. In November Syria re-established diplomatic relations with Iraq after 24 years, having already improved since 2000 on the previously strained relations with Turkey. From this more comfortable position, at the end of 2006 the Syrian President multiplied his offers for a resumption of peace negotiations with Israel. The EU will continue to base its policy towards Syria on the expectations formulated within the framework of the UN and on the prospect that Syria can play a constructive role in the region.

4.4 - Israel

270. The political situation in the Middle East figured high on the EU-Israel bilateral agenda and was discussed at various meetings throughout 2006, notably at the fifth Association Committee in Brussels on 17 May 2006, the sixth EU-Israel Association Council in Luxembourg on 13 June 2006 and the second meeting of the Political dialogue and cooperation Subcommittee on 9 November 2006.
271. In parallel and in line with the aims and objectives agreed in the EU-Israel Action Plan concluded in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy, both sides enhanced and diversified their dialogue and cooperation on a certain number of political issues. Following on the conclusions of the first Political dialogue and cooperation Subcommittee in November 2005 to intensify dialogue, on a case-by-case basis, on some specific issues of interest to both sides, four expert meetings were held in 2006. In March 2006, a seminar on terrorist financing discussed ways to share best practices and strengthen cooperation. On 7 June 2006, a working group exchanged views on the means of cooperation within international organisations. The same day a meeting of the informal working group on human rights addressed the situation of minorities, international humanitarian law issues, relevant international conventions and protocols and the new UN Human Rights Council. The EU raised specific issues of concern, in particular the effect of the separation barrier and restriction of movement within the Palestinian territories on the lives and livelihoods of the Palestinians, access of humanitarian NGOs to the occupied Palestinian Territories, civilian casualties claimed as extra-judicial killings, and administrative detention. Finally, the seminar on 7 December 2006 on the fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism presented an opportunity to demonstrate the commitment by both the EU and Israel, to combat all forms of racism and xenophobia, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

4.5 - Iran

272. The Council remains committed to building a long-term relationship with Iran based on confidence and cooperation, but has also made clear that this depends on progress on all issues of concern, in particular the nuclear issue, terrorism, Iran's approach to the Middle East Peace Process and regional issues.

273. The situation of human rights in Iran remained a key priority for the EU. On 17 July 2006, the Council once more regretted the deterioration of the situation of human rights in Iran and called on Iran to ensure implementation of its human rights obligations. Through the Presidency, the EU has also raised a number of human rights cases, publicly as well as directly with the Iranian authorities. The EU co-sponsored the UNGA resolution on the human rights situation in Iran that was tabled by Canada. The Presidency had agreed in principle with Iran that the next round of the EU-Iran human rights dialogue would take place in December 2006. However, following the adoption of the UNGA resolution, Iran cancelled the meeting.
274. Progress in other areas was limited. The Finnish Presidency proposed a meeting of the EU-Iran Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) to Iran, but did not get any reply. A positive development was the inclusion of Iran, along with other countries in the region, in the ERASMUS MUNDUS program.
275. Regarding the Holocaust conference organised by the Iranian authorities, the European Council of 14 and 15 December 2006 condemned any denial of the Holocaust as a historical fact, either in whole or in part, and rejected the underlying premise and the objectives of the conference. The EU co-sponsored an UNGA resolution condemning without reservation any denial of the Holocaust, which was adopted by consensus on 26 January. Iran was the only country to disassociate from the consensus.
276. The EU is taking an increasing interest in Iran's regional role. The European Council of 14 and 15 December 2006 expressed concern about the negative impact of Iranian policies on stability and security in the Middle East and called on Iran to play a responsible role in the region.
- In 2007, the nuclear issue will remain in focus. Details in this regard are dealt with under Section I, Chapter 4.1. The EU remains deeply concerned by Iran's proliferation sensitive activities, but is committed to efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution which would open the way for a new relationship with Iran. The EU will continue to keep all issues and policies vis-à-vis Iran under review.

4.6 - Iraq

277. The EU continued to strengthen its relations with Iraq through support for the political and economic reconstruction of Iraq in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1546, and as set out in the Commission's June 2006 recommendations for renewed EU engagement with Iraq. Iraq's second general elections for the Council of Representatives took place in December 2005 in accordance with the new Constitution, which was approved by referendum in October 2005. The elections led to the formation of a Government of National Unity. The EU continued its political dialogue with Iraq at all levels in accordance with the EU-Iraq Joint Declaration on Political Dialogue which was signed in New York on 21 September 2005.
278. The EU has been participating actively in the preparatory process for the International Compact with Iraq (ICI). This process was launched in June 2006. The Compact is intended to include commitments from the Iraqi government which would be supported by the international community. The EU has worked for a broad Compact covering political and security issues as well as economic issues and has argued for wide participation particularly by Iraq's neighbours. The final meeting on the Compact is expected to take place in the spring of 2007.
279. The EU has provided reconstruction assistance to Iraq primarily through contributions to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) (187,5 Meuros in 2006), 60% of which is provided by the EU and its Member States. Continuing the EU's efforts to help address the urgent needs of the Iraqi criminal justice system, on 12 June 2006 the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/413/CFSP amending and extending Joint Action 2005/190/CFSP on the European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq, EUJUST LEX, which implemented a no-cost extension of the mission until 31 October 2006. At the same time, the Council also noted the political agreement that the mission be extended for a further period until 31 December 2007. On 17 October 2006, the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/708/CFSP amending and extending Joint Action 2005/190/CFSP until 31 December 2007. The financial reference for the period from 31 October 2006 to 31 December 2007 is EUR 11 200 000.

EUJUST LEX provides training for high and mid-level officials in the Iraqi Police Service, the Judiciary and the Correctional Service (prisons) in senior management and criminal investigation. The mission has a liaison office in Baghdad.

The extended mission provides a wider range of specialised courses and a limited number of work experience secondments. By the end of December 2006, 843 participants had taken part in 26 courses. The mission has also organised a "Work Experience Secondment" for two Iraqi prison officials.

280. Furthermore, the EU and Iraq launched the negotiations for a Trade and Cooperation Agreement on 20 November 2006. These will be the first contractual relations between the EU and Iraq. The Agreement aims to provide a framework for expanding cooperation and supporting Iraqi re-integration into the international economic system.

4.7 - Gulf Cooperation Council

281. The 16th EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting took place in Brussels on 15 May 2006. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects, including political issues of mutual interest such as the situation in Iran and Iraq, the Middle East Peace Process, human rights, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In preparation for the Joint Council and Ministerial meeting, EU and GCC officials met in Brussels on 16 March 2006.

282. The negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement continued and gained momentum in 2006 after the Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting. Despite major efforts it was not possible to finalise negotiations before the end of 2006. Provisions concerning human rights, the fight against terrorism and cooperation in non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction have been agreed. Amongst the main trade-related issues still under discussion were services, public procurement and rules of origin. The aim is to finalise the negotiations in 2007 in order to provide the right circumstances for further development of EU-GCC relations.

CHAPTER 5 - AFRICA

5.1- Biregional cooperation

EU/AU dialogue

283. The EU/Africa relationship benefited further from the emergence of the African Union as a strong key interlocutor. Accordingly, the European Commission, SG/HR Solana and the African Union Commission continued to play a central role in the promotion of the EU/Africa dialogue. Two ministerial troika meetings were held in 2006, one in May in Vienna, and one in October in Brazzaville; another is to be held in May 2007 in Brussels. Both meetings in 2006 confirmed the general trend by which EU/Africa relations have intensified over the last few years. The EU Africa Strategy of December 2005⁵⁶ has provided an important impetus and further substance to the dialogue. The dialogue remained organised around the four clusters: (i) peace and security, (ii) governance and human rights, (iii) regional integration and trade, and (iv) key development issues. The holding of a second EU/Africa summit in the second half of 2007 in Lisbon has become a political priority for the EU and it will offer an opportunity to confirm the EU's commitment towards Africa and to further deepen the EU/Africa partnership.

Implementing the EU Africa Strategy

284. After its adoption in December 2005, the EU Africa Strategy proved in 2006 to be a solid platform to improve the coordination, coherence and consistency of the EU's policies and instruments supporting Africa with those of its Member States. The Strategy has become the central reference for action by the Commission, the SG/HR Solana and increasingly the individual Member States. The Strategy has become the central reference for action by the Commission, the SG/HR Solana and increasingly the individual Member States.

⁵⁶ The EU and Africa - towards a Strategic Partnership, 15702/1/05

Concrete and important steps have been taken to implement the Strategy, such as the development of the "Infrastructure Partnership", of the "Governance Initiative" and of the "EU Concept on supporting African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts". A detailed report was submitted to the European Council in December 2006⁵⁷. At the ministerial EU/Africa troika meeting in Bamako in December 2005 it was agreed to work towards a Joint EU/Africa Strategy to be adopted at the EU-Africa summit envisaged in December 2007. The EU Africa Strategy forms the point of departure for EU priorities in the work towards a Joint EU/Africa Strategy.

The ongoing work to elaborate such a Joint Strategy has received additional momentum since the organisation of a second EU/Africa summit in 2007 in Lisbon has become a political priority.

Strengthening African capabilities

285. The EU Africa Strategy has also given a new impetus to EU support for African capacity building. Back in November 2004, the EU took a first initiative with the adoption of the ESDP Action Plan for supporting Peace and Security in Africa. With the capacity building component of the African Peace Facility, the Commission became another important contributor to African efforts to strengthen capabilities to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. Furthermore, in their bilateral civilian and military support programmes, individual EU Member States have increasingly taken the emerging pan-African Peace and Security Architecture into account. To combine these efforts on the EU level, to pool resources where possible and to bring about a more efficient, more coherent and more coordinated EU approach towards African capacity building, the General Secretariat and the Commission have jointly elaborated the "EU concept for strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts"⁵⁸.

⁵⁷ Report of the Council to the European Council on 15 December 2006 "The EU and Africa: Towards a Strategic Partnership – The Way Forward and Key Achievements in 2006", 16630/06 of 11 December 2006

⁵⁸ EU Concept for Strengthening African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts, 11316/06 of 7 July 2006

The General Affairs Council of November 2006 welcomed the preparation of the Concept⁵⁹ and confirmed that it is ready to step up its support for the efforts of the African Union and African sub-regional organisations to promote security and development on the African continent.

5.2 - Great Lakes

286. In 2006, the EU focussed in particular on assisting the election process in **DR Congo** which was completed with the successful legislative, presidential and provincial elections. In the run up to the elections, the Council maintained pressure on and provided assistance to the Congolese authorities in close coordination with the international community, notably the United Nations and MONUC. In the same vein, it was important to continue ensuring the necessary support of the main international partners. Thus, on several occasions, the Council expressed its full support for having the Congolese constitution promulgated and the electoral law adopted in time, as well as for mobilising the substantial financial and logistical support needed to prepare for the elections. At the same time, the Council remained preoccupied with the security situation in Eastern Congo which called for additional international efforts to rein in the militia activities in North and South Kivu, in Ituri and in Katanga, reflecting also major concerns regarding the serious human rights violations in those provinces.
287. During the electoral period, the EU aimed at containing tensions and avoiding any escalation of violence, in particular through the deployment of EUFOR RD CONGO and the reinforcement of EUPOL KINSHASA. Violent incidents threatened to derail the process at different times, in June/July 2006 and also during the events of 20 to 22 August, which represented perhaps the most serious crisis during the transitional period. The Council firmly condemned these acts of violence and High Representative Solana was actively involved in bringing the conflicting parties back to continuing the electoral campaign. Additional challenges were faced in the difficult period between the first and second round of presidential elections, with a renewed outbreak of violence on 11 November.

⁵⁹ Council Conclusions on Strengthening African Capabilities for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts, 2760th GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting, Brussels, 13 November 2006

After the elections, intensified diplomatic efforts were required to influence all parties to accept the results.

288. Regarding **Burundi**, the Council addressed the political tensions and the deterioration of the human rights situation, in particular following the alleged coup attempt in August 2006, which have been the main sources of concern. Following EU demarches those unduly imprisoned received fair trials and were freed in January 2007. As a whole the EU action has contributed to a normalisation of the political situation. At the same time, the Council encouraged a follow-up of the cease-fire agreement between the Government and the "Forces Nationales de Libération" (FNL) rebellion in the summer of 2006. Regarding **Rwanda**, emphasis was put on helping improve bilateral relations with the DRC in particular as regards the situation in Eastern Congo, on the support needed for the Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion (DDRRR) process of the "Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda" (FDLR) militias in the Kivus and a successful organisation and unfolding of the elections in DRC. Sensitive issues such as Human Rights, freedom of the press, the judicial process and the suppression of the death penalty were discussed in the framework of the Cotonou Agreement.
289. Similarly, as regards **Uganda**, the Council advocated a more constructive approach, notably in view of the local militias in Ituri and the incursions of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels which had provoked Ugandan interventions in this province. Finally, the Council actively supported the work of the **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (GLR)** leading to the second Summit in December 2006 which endorsed the Pact on Security, Stability and Development as the new framework for regional cooperation in the Great Lakes region.
290. Following the initiatives of High Representative Solana who in 2006 twice visited the DRC, the EUSR was successful in influencing political developments at crucial junctures and moments of crisis in the DRC. The EUSR had regular and close contacts with the two presidential candidates, the main party leaders and the Independent Electoral Commission. He also contributed actively to the alignment of the international Community in the framework of the Contact Group and the International Committee for Support to Transition (CIAT).

His influence was instrumental in facilitating the political and practical arrangements, both in the DR Congo and in Gabon, for deploying EUFOR RD CONGO in support of the UN during the electoral period. Furthermore, the EUSR had a substantial part in promoting the positive image of EUFOR RD CONGO as a key contribution to stabilising the electoral process in the DRC.

291. The region is still facing considerable challenges in the coming year: the challenges of the post-election/transition period in the DRC, with unfinished business from the transition period, the consolidation of the democratic process in Burundi as well as the involvement of Uganda and Rwanda in regional affairs. Therefore, the tasks of the EUSR will need to focus on the implementation of Security Sector Reform in the DRC as a priority, and on the consolidation of democratic institutions.: The EUSR will also play an important in ensuring coordination and coherence of ESDP SSR missions undertaken in DRC. The presence of foreign armed groups in the east of the country presents a continued factor of instability (in particular the presence of the FDLR, LRA and FNL). The implementation of the main protocols and programmes of the Pact of the IC-GLR will need regular follow-up.

5.3 - Democratic Republic of the Congo

EUSEC RD Congo

292. The **EUSEC RD Congo** mission has been fulfilling its mandate in the field of security sector reform since May 2005. It has contributed to the integration of 14 brigades for the new Congolese army. Throughout 2007, one key objective will be to complete this process by involving those combatants from former factions still present in the east of the country and in Katanga. EUSEC RD Congo will also continue its advisory activities on the reform of the security sector with the newly elected government, in accordance with its mandate. The technical assistance project aiming at the improvement of the chain of payments of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) was launched in February 2006. This project has achieved significant results in modernising the MoD administration, thus contributing to the regularisation of the payment of salaries for the military.

The Council decided on 25 April 2006 to extend the mandate of EUSEC RD Congo until 30 June 2007. It is expected that the mission's mandate will be extended and that its focus will be placed on providing assistance to the reconstruction of the Congolese armed forces.

EUFOR RD Congo

293. At the UN's request, the EU deployed a military force to the DRC (Operation EUFOR RD Congo) to provide support to MONUC and the Congolese election process. The Operational Headquarters was provided by Germany, with a Force Headquarters and immediate reaction capability in Kinshasa, and a reinforcement capability based over the horizon in Gabon.

294. EUFOR's presence significantly limited the number of incidents, facilitating the first democratic and transparent Congolese elections in more than 40 years. During a particularly sensitive period, EUFOR intervention was decisive in preventing the spread of violence following the 21 August attack on Vice-President Bemba's residence.

It has further demonstrated the strength of the EU as a crisis management actor, the effectiveness of such interventions, and a determination to deliver on our joint declaration of cooperation with the UN from September 2003. The EU remains committed to the DRC, including through EUSEC and EUPOL Kinshasa.

EUPOL Kinshasa

295. EUPOL Kinshasa was launched in April 2005 as the first European police mission in Africa. Throughout 2006, the mission continued to perform its main mandate, namely the mentoring and support of the *Unité de Police Intégrée* (UPI) that was created to provide security to the Institutions of the Transition in Kinshasa.

296. Following a request by the UN to the EU to help secure the elections in the DRC, EUPOL Kinshasa was reinforced in late June 2006 by a coordination element (*élément de renfort*) that worked closely together with EUFOR DRC and supported the coordination efforts of the public order forces in Kinshasa during the delicate period of the DRC presidential elections. This element - which for the first time included African policemen in an ESDP civilian mission (Angolans and Malians) - will now be gradually phased out before the end of March 2007.

297. Additionally, EUPOL Kinshasa has participated, since the spring of 2006, in the work of the *Groupe Mixte de Réflexion sur la Réforme et la Réorganisation de la Police Congolaise (GMRRR)*.
298. In December 2006, the Council extended EUPOL Kinshasa's mandate for an additional six months, until 30 June 2007. During this extension, the number of personnel devoted to the more tactical tasks - the mentoring of UPI, the coordination element - will gradually decrease whilst four new experts will join the mission in February to engage in a more strategic, reform-oriented set of activities. This will pave the way for a new and reoriented EUPOL mission envisaged to start in July 2007 and focussing on police aspects of DRC security sector reform.

5.4 - Sudan/Darfur

299. The EU remained deeply concerned at the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Darfur. It continued its active engagement to resolve the conflict in Darfur, in support of the AU's efforts to stabilise the security situation and achieve a peaceful settlement. The Council condemned cease-fire violations by all the parties, and in particular violence against civilians and the targeting of the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The Council reiterated its support for the application of sanctions under UNSCR 1591 against those who impede the peace process. In accordance with Security Council Resolution 1672 (2006), on 1 June the Council decided to apply sanctions against four individuals⁶⁰

300. The EU actively supported the Abuja talks, which finally concluded with the adoption of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) on 5 May. An important step in this process was the meeting on 8 March in Brussels, at the initiative of the SG/HR, with the participation of key international actors (EU, UN, AU, US) and the Government of Sudan, which led to a common understanding of the need for a reinforced commitment from the AU to ensure an early conclusion of the talks, as well as on the perspective of a transition from the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to a UN mission.

⁶⁰ Council Decision 2006/386/CFSP of 1 June 2006 implementing Common Position 2005/411/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Sudan (OJ L 148, 2.6.2006, p. 61).

Following the signature of the DPA, EU efforts continued to consolidate the accord, particularly through bringing the rebel movements that have not signed the DPA to join the agreement. The EU's engagement was underlined by the international conference on Darfur, held on 18 July on the invitation of the SG/HR and with the participation of the UN Secretary-General. The political part of the conference confirmed the common priorities of the international community in Darfur.

301. A second focus of EU action was the efforts to achieve the Sudanese Government's acceptance of the deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur, in line with Security Council Resolution 1706 of 31 August. In view of Sudan's continuing refusal of such a deployment, the EU welcomed the UN's three-phase plan for supporting AMIS, which was endorsed by the international community at the high level consultation meeting in Addis Ababa on 16 November, where the EU was represented. The Union strongly urged Sudan to unequivocally accept the implementation of the entire UN support package for AMIS. Similarly, it worked actively to put pressure on all parties to the conflict to engage in a political process to reach a negotiated settlement of the conflict.
302. The EU continued its significant support for AMIS. On three occasions, the EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS which includes the training and mentoring of AU police in Darfur, as well as work on building overall AU police capacity in Addis was extended, following decisions by the AU to prolong AMIS' mandate, most recently in December following the extension of the mandate of AMIS for up to 6 months, from 1 January 2007. With two additional contributions, totalling EUR 80 million, the EU's contribution to AMIS under the African Peace Facility reached EUR 242 million, to which EU Member States added substantial bilateral contributions.
303. The work of the EUSR for Sudan⁶¹ focussed on, first, reaching agreement on, and subsequently consolidating the DPA. He also met regularly with Sudanese authorities, regional and international players to discuss the future of AMIS, representing the EU position in favour of a transfer to a UN mission.

⁶¹ The mandate of the EUSR for Sudan was reviewed and extended by the Council on 5 July (Joint Action 2006/468/CFSP of 5 July 2006 renewing and revising the mandate of the Special Representative of the European Union for Sudan) (OJ L 184, 6.7.2006, p. 38).

The EUSR worked closely with the AU and the UN, and his team in Addis Ababa has been instrumental in coordinating the EU input into the ongoing planning process for sustainable peacekeeping in Darfur. The EUSR attended the signing of the East Sudan Peace Agreement.

304. Expectations that the DPA would lead to stabilisation in Darfur and form the basis for lasting peace have not been fulfilled. In fact, during the last part of the year, the security and humanitarian situation deteriorated markedly, while the Sudanese Government's inflexible refusal to accept Security Council Resolution 1706 significantly delayed the efforts to achieve a strong, financially and logistically sustainable international peacekeeping force in Darfur.
305. In this difficult environment, the EU played a leading role in establishing a coordinated line among main international actors on the key issues at stake: the need for a broad political process leading to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and the need for the implementation of the UN support package to AMIS. Similarly, the support given to the AU and AMIS - political, financial and practical and logistical assistance - maintained the Union as the AU's main international partner.
306. The EU will continue to work for progress towards a solution of the Darfur conflict through a stabilisation of the security situation and a political settlement, giving its full support to the efforts of the AU and the UN to restart the political process. The EU will monitor the implementation of the UN support package to AMIS and the process towards the establishment of the agreed AU/UN hybrid force. The Council has made clear that it expects the Sudanese Government to cooperate closely with the AU and the UN to achieve an early implementation of the entire support package and the finalisation of the preparations for the hybrid force, and is ready to consider taking further measures against those obstructing its implementation. In close coordination with international partners the EU will continue its support for AMIS and facilitate the implementation of the UN's support for the mission in the transition period leading up to the deployment of an AU/UN force in Darfur.
307. The regional dimensions of the Darfur conflict, particularly the destabilising effects on situations marked by existing national tensions in Chad and the Central African Republic, will require much attention.

308. Support for the implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is an EU priority. The EU will continue to press both sides to make progress through a number of fora including the Assessment and Evaluation Commission upon which a number of Member States are represented. The EU continues to support the Government of National Unity's efforts to deliver the CPA's peace dividend to ordinary people through development and humanitarian assistance.

5.5 - South Africa

309. At the EU-South Africa Joint Cooperation Council in 2005 it was agreed to take new steps to ensure that relations between the EU and South Africa develop into a truly strategic partnership. Accordingly, the Commission presented its communication "Towards an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership" to the Council on 3 July 2006 (11263/06). The Council on 16-17 October 2006 considered this communication to be a good basis, and reaffirmed its commitment to working towards a strategic partnership that should bring the Member States, the Community and South Africa together in a single and coherent framework, with clearly and jointly defined objectives, covering all areas of cooperation and associating all stakeholders.

310. The European Parliament also supported the creation of a strategic partnership (resolution of 24 October 2006). The EU-South Africa Joint Cooperation Council in November 2006 welcomed the commitment to establish a strategic partnership and called for an operational, results-oriented and measurable action plan for the implementation of the strategic partnership to be drawn up in cooperation with the Member States, the Community and South Africa. The action plan is to be adopted at the next EU - South Africa Ministerial troika meeting, which will take place on 14 May 2007 in the margins of the GAERC in Brussels.

311. The strategic partnership will be built on the existing relations between the EU and South Africa with the objective of strengthening and bringing added value to these relations, while being fully consistent with the EU Strategy for Africa as well as with South Africa's national, regional and African priorities and commitment to its regional partners.

312. The process should move relations between the two sides from political dialogue to strategic political cooperation with shared objectives on regional, African and global issues. While enhancing the existing cooperation, it should seek to develop stronger and sustainable economic cooperation between the two parties, fully implement the provisions in the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) and it should extend cooperation to the social, cultural and environmental fields.
313. The process of developing an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership will be based on an open and transparent dialogue between the two parties and it will be pursued in mutual understanding and ownership of this process.
314. The SG/HR participated in the political dialogue that took place during the JCC meeting and afterwards had a bilateral meeting with South African Foreign Minister Zuma. During the year he has also had several contacts with President Mbeki on the situation in the DRC.

5.6 - Somalia

315. The EU has been closely following recent developments in Somalia, whose instability has regional and international repercussions. It urged all parties to seize the momentum which the Ethiopian intervention in Somalia in December 2006 has created, and to reach a durable political settlement that will enable Somalia to achieve lasting peace, development and prosperity.
316. The EU remained concerned by the slow progress of the reconciliation process, the ongoing violence and the humanitarian situation in Somalia. It urged all parties to resume the full functioning of political institutions and civil society, to refrain from violence and to facilitate access for relief organisations. As Somalia's biggest aid donor, the EU announced that it would continue to provide humanitarian assistance as well as assistance for reconstruction in Somalia.

317. The EU stressed its conviction that the political dialogue and reconciliation process will remain closely linked to the resolution of security issues, as well as all aspects of reconstruction and capacity building. Regarding an inclusive broad based political process as the basis for national reconciliation, the EU underlined its readiness to continue to support the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). It called on the TFIs to solve their internal differences and to reach out to all Somalis of good will in order to ensure that all key stakeholders – including clan elders, Islamic leaders, representatives of the business community, civil society and women – are engaged in an inclusive political and institutional process on the basis of the Transitional Federal Charter.
318. The EU welcomed past and ongoing efforts aiming at reducing tensions, particularly those of the African Union, the International Authority on Development (IGAD) and its chair and the League of Arab States. It offered financial support for AMISOM within the framework of a concerted and global international effort stressing the importance of an all-inclusive political dialogue and genuine reconciliation as the basis for stability and the important role of the UN in facilitating longer-term stabilisation in Somalia.

5.7 - Restrictive measures against Zimbabwe, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire

319. In 2006, the Council fully implemented the UN sanctions against Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.
320. Common Position 2006/30/CFSP⁶² renewed the existing restrictive measures imposed in 2004 against Côte d'Ivoire and supplemented them with the import ban on rough diamonds. Council Decision 2006/483/CFSP⁶³ updated the list of individuals subject to restrictive measures.

⁶² OJ L 19, 24.1.2006, p. 36

⁶³ OJ L 189, 12.7.2006, p. 23

321. In the case of Liberia, the Council, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, renewed the restrictive measures in January⁶⁴ and introduced exemptions to the arms embargo in July 2006⁶⁵. The ban on the imports of round logs and timber products was repealed with effect from 19 September 2006⁶⁶.
322. In view of the situation in Zimbabwe, the Council extended its autonomous sanctions against that country imposed in 2002 for another period of 12 months, by means of Common Position 2006/51/CFSP⁶⁷ of January 2006.
323. The restrictive measures will be kept under constant review and amended as appropriate.

CHAPTER 6 – TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

6.1 - EU-US

324. The annual EU-US Summit was held in Vienna on 21 June 2006. Discussions centred on economic and trade questions, energy, climate change, visas, Guantanamo and detainees issues, and UN reform, as well as on MEPP, Iran, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, the Western Balkans, Africa and Latin America. The declaration adopted touched on the four main areas of cooperation, namely promoting peace, human rights and democracy worldwide; confronting global challenges, including security; fostering prosperity and opportunity; and promoting strategic cooperation on energy and energy security, climate change and sustainable development. The declaration provided a quite detailed working programme on the areas mentioned. Two progress reports on Political and Security issues and on the Economic Initiative were also adopted. In addition, a joint report on the roadmap for EU-US regulatory cooperation and an EU-US action strategy for the enforcement of intellectual property rights were also adopted.

⁶⁴ Common Position 2006/31/CFSP (OJ L 19, 24.1.2006, p. 38)

⁶⁵ Common Position 2006/518/CFSP (OJ L 201, 25.7.2006, p. 36)

⁶⁶ Council Regulation (EC) No 1819/2006 (OJ L 351, 13.12.2006, p. 1)

⁶⁷ OJ L 26, 31.1.2006, p. 28

325. The good tone and atmosphere of the relationship from 2005 were maintained. In terms of key policy concerns, genuine progress was achieved during 2006 in several areas including a number of those that the EU identified as challenges for 2006. Overall, contacts have intensified and the agenda is more diverse, e.g. energy security has become a more urgent topic. The declaration and other documents issued at the Summit once again underline the width and depth of progress in the fields in question, in particular on Iran, MEPP, Lebanon, Kosovo, Russia-Georgia relations, East Asia/China dialogue, counterterrorism and international humanitarian law, crisis management, climate change and visa reciprocity. However the picture of EU-US cooperation was more mixed on other challenges, e.g. the DDA round, UN reform and the Human Rights Council, Russia, non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, and certain areas in the Economic Initiative such as the Air Transport Agreement.
326. In preparing for the 2007 EU-US Summit in Washington, the Union will continue its proactive approach, strive to speak with one voice and aim for concrete results. The transatlantic agenda is increasingly driven by the will and the need to work together on solving issues around the world. However, while EU-US agreement is necessary, it is often not sufficient to resolve challenges. The problems are increasingly complex and the players involved are becoming more numerous. Priorities for the 2007 Summit include regional issues, ESDP/crisis management, climate change/energy, injecting new political impetus on the Economic initiative, regulatory cooperation, Doha, the visa waiver issue and the negotiation of a new Passenger Name Record agreement as well as achieving a balanced. Air Transport Agreement. The EU will also strive to present a positive image as an international actor and an indispensable partner to wider constituencies in Washington and beyond.

6.2 - EU-Canada

327. There was no EU-Canada Summit in 2006 due to cancellation by Canada. Nonetheless, EU and Canada are exploring possibilities to enhance their cooperation in crisis management. In 2006, Canada participated in several ESDP operations (ALTHEA in Bosnia, EUPM Bosnia, EUPOL Kinshasa). Canada also participated in several EU election observation missions.

328. The EU and Canada continued to cooperate on foreign policy challenges worldwide such as Afghanistan, Sudan/Darfur and Haiti. Cooperation on UN issues, including human rights, remained close. The EU and Canada renewed their Agreement establishing a Framework for Cooperation in Higher Education, Training and Youth ⁶⁸.
329. The EU and Canada share a similar approach to many international challenges, and so Canada is a natural and important partner for the EU. The next EU-Canada Summit will take place under the German Presidency. Priorities for 2007 remain security issues, economic issues and also energy/climate/environment.

CHAPTER 7- ASIA-OCEANIA

7.1 - Biregional cooperation

330. As the bi-annual EU-ASEAN Ministerial meeting had taken place in 2005, activities in 2006 were concentrated on taking the relationship forward and preparing for the Ministerial in Germany in early 2007. The EU Troika met with a delegation of ASEAN countries in the Post-Ministerial Conference in July in Kuala Lumpur and confirmed the intention to enhance the EU-ASEAN partnership and strengthen foreign policy and security cooperation. The EU announced its wish to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) to further strengthen the links between the two regions, a move that was widely welcomed by ASEAN. The EU assisted ASEAN's efforts to strengthen its institutional development by receiving a high-level visit of the Eminent Persons Group tasked to prepare recommendations for the future ASEAN Charter.
331. The EU continued to participate in the ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum), the only existing regular dialogue forum on security issues in the Asia Pacific region, which includes all the EU's strategic partners.

⁶⁸ OJ L 397, 30.12.2006.

The EU delegation to the ARF Ministerial in July in Kuala Lumpur, led by SG/HR Solana, played an active part in the meeting and had many worthwhile side-meetings. The EU hosted the first-ever ARF seminar on energy security in Brussels, jointly with Singapore, thereby putting an increasingly important issue on the ARF's agenda and trying to set a benchmark for results-oriented work in the forum. The EU also co-chaired one of the two Inter-sessional Group Meetings on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in 2006. The EU also participated in virtually all ARF meetings, represented by officials from a number of Member States, thereby contributing the EU's views and strategies on the many issues discussed by the forum.

332. In ASEM, 2006 was devoted to the preparation of the ASEM VI Summit. The Summit, which was held in Helsinki in September 2006, marked the 10th anniversary of the ASEM process and took decisions on the scope, focus and organisation of work in the future. It also decided to enlarge ASEM to Bulgaria and Romania as EU acceding countries, as well as India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat. It adopted the Helsinki Declaration on the Future of ASEM as well as the ASEM VI Declaration on Climate Change which will be followed-up by the ASEM Environmental Ministers' Meeting in April 2007 in Denmark.

333. In 2007 the EU will continue to strengthen ties with ASEAN. At the 16th EU-ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nuremberg on 14 and 15 March 2007, the EU will aim for an operational roadmap to advance the partnership of the two regional organisations including preparations for a possible EU-ASEAN summit process, and for follow-up to the lessons learnt from the Aceh Monitoring Mission and will offer EU institutional building experience on regional integration. The EU will also prepare concrete steps for its accession to the ASEAN "Treaty of Amity and Cooperation" and express its interest in being involved in the East Asia Summit.

The EU will keep up its active performance within the ARF. An illustration of this is that the EU will co-host the ARF Intersessional Group in the spring, which will be held in Finland, and the possibility that it may co-host another seminar on Energy Security as well as organising a seminar in the field of traditional confidence building measures.

334. The ASEM FMM on 28 and 29 May 2007 will consolidate the ASEM process, ensure the follow up to the Helsinki Summit, prepare for the next ASEM Summit in China in 2008 and provide for focused political discussions by Foreign Ministers on strategic and security policy issues in the Asia/Pacific region.
335. On biregional cooperation with South Asia, the EU will prepare for its first participation as an observer at the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Summit in New Delhi on 3 and 4 April 2007.
- Finally, the EU will establish a dialogue with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on focused areas, as endorsed by the PSC on 24 November 2006.

7.2 - Afghanistan

336. In 2006 the EU continued its longstanding commitment to Afghanistan in the framework of the EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration, "Committing to a new EU-Afghan Partnership", signed in Strasbourg in November 2005, and of the Afghanistan Compact, agreed by Afghanistan and international partners at the London Conference on 31 January 2006.
337. Formal political dialogue between the EU and Afghanistan was launched, with the first EU ministerial Troika meeting with Afghanistan held in London on 31 January. The EU contributed actively to the formulation and launch of the Afghanistan Compact, in conjunction with which it carried out a comprehensive review of its policy, as reflected in the Council Conclusions on Afghanistan adopted on 30 January 2006.
338. In the framework of an integrated and comprehensive approach, the EU paid special attention to governance and administrative reform and to promoting human rights and the rule of law. In September, the Council and Commission dispatched a Joint Assessment Mission to Afghanistan to assess needs in the field of governance and the rule of law and to identify priorities for further EU engagement in this area.

As follow-up, in November an EU Fact-Finding Mission visited Afghanistan to examine the opportunities and conditions for a potential ESDP mission in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law.

339. The EU continued to be present in Kabul through the Special Representative and his office. The EUSR's mandate was revised and extended until 28 February 2007⁶⁹. EU engagement in Afghanistan received further political impetus through Council conclusions and a European Council Declaration on Afghanistan adopted in December 2006.
340. In 2007 the EU will continue its long-term support for Afghanistan. The core principles of EU engagement will be to promote Afghan leadership, responsibility and ownership and to foster the development of a democratic Afghan state. In partnership with Afghanistan and, as appropriate, other international partners, the EU will also undertake to contribute to implementation of the Afghanistan Compact, including through active participation in the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) set up under the Compact. The second EU ministerial Troika meeting with Afghanistan was held in Berlin on 29 January.
341. The EU will increase its engagement in the rule of law sector. Following a Joint Assessment Mission in September 2006, a Fact Finding Mission was sent to Afghanistan in November 2006 to examine if and where an ESDP police mission with linkages to the wider rule of law in Afghanistan could provide added value to current efforts, to consider the impact of the security situation on such a mission, to lay out logistical implications and to report on cost estimates. The Council subsequently decided in February 2007 to take the planning of an ESDP police mission with linkages to the wider rule of law in Afghanistan forward.
342. A stronger focus on governance and the rule of law will be complemented and reinforced by action in other inter-linked areas, such as security sector reform, human rights and democratisation, anti-corruption and counter-narcotics. Reconstruction and development assistance will remain an important element of EU support for Afghanistan.

⁶⁹ Joint Action 2006/124/CFSP of 20 February 2006

343. The EU will support the central role of the UN in coordinating donors' civilian efforts and, together with UNAMA, NATO and other key actors, will work towards effective cooperation and coordination within the international community and with the Government of Afghanistan in the framework of the JCMB. The EU will also encourage the development of regional cooperation with active participation by Afghanistan.

7.3 - Pakistan

344. The regional and global significance of Pakistan, including its role in ongoing stabilisation efforts in Afghanistan, in advancing the composite dialogue with India and in the fight against terrorism, extremism and proliferation, highlights the need for the EU to continue to develop a stronger and broader relationship with Pakistan and to engage more closely and effectively in the future. There is also clear interest in promoting Pakistani-EU relations on the Pakistani side and a desire to reinforce cooperation with the EU.

345. Critical to the further development of such a relationship is conclusion of a readmission agreement. This will enable the EU to strengthen relations with Pakistan in all fields, including political, economic and development cooperation. In September, the sixth round of negotiations on a readmission agreement resulted in a draft text to be initialled by the two sides after final agreement on a few outstanding issues.

346. In 2006, in the absence of an arrangement for formal political dialogue, the EU maintained ad hoc contacts. This saw meetings of High Representative Solana with President Musharraf in Brussels on 13 September 2006 and with Foreign Minister Kasuri in Kuala Lumpur on 27 July 2006, and an EU-Pakistan Troika Political Directors meeting in November. Progress was made in negotiations on a proposed new instrument on counter-proliferation and counterterrorism.

347. In 2007, dialogue at Ministerial and senior officials level will continue (Meeting between HR Solana and PM Aziz in Brussels on 30 January, EU-PAK Ministerial Troika in Berlin on 8 February), with a view to strengthening EU-Pakistan relations and to developing a broad and formalised political dialogue.

Dialogue at working level across a wide range of policy areas, including human rights, counterterrorism and counter-proliferation will be pursued and developed, including discussions on a proposed new instrument on counter-proliferation and counter-terrorism. A joint commission, the first for ten years, will take place in 2007.

348. As Pakistan prepares for parliamentary elections in late 2007/early 2008, and in view of the importance of respect for human rights and democratic principles in EU-Pakistan relations, political attention within the EU will also focus on the process of democratisation (including the possibility of sending an EU Election Exploratory Mission), the development of an inclusive political process and the human rights situation in Pakistan.

7.4 - India

349. 2006 was the first full year for implementation of the EU-India Joint Action Plan, adopted at the sixth EU-India Summit in New Delhi on 7 September 2005. This produced a wide variety of meetings, extending work under the EU-India Strategic Partnership into a variety of new areas. Most notably, 2006 saw the first inaugural round of the EU-India Security Dialogue, which was held in New Delhi on 22 May 2006. This addressed a range of global and regional security issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation.

350. Also during 2006, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Mr Gijs de Vries, visited New Delhi on 9 and 10 October. The Personal Representative for Non-Proliferation of Javier Solana visited New Delhi in May. An EU-India conference on "Global agendas: Peace-Making in the 21st Century" was held in New Delhi on 13 and 14 February 2006.

Finally, the latest round of EU-India human rights consultations took place in New Delhi on 12 December and a Minorities Expert Seminar will take place in March 2007. Work was overseen by two meetings of Senior Officials, on 22 May in New Delhi and on 19 September in Brussels.

351. The EU-India Strategic Partnership demonstrated in 2006 that it is outward looking and a force for effective multilateralism. Both sides have worked together in establishing the UN Human Rights Council and Peace-Building Commission. They have also cooperated towards enactment of the UN Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism. Meanwhile, on 11 September 2006, India became a member of ASEM (the Asia Europe Meeting) at the sixth ASEM Summit in Helsinki. On 1 August 2006, the SAARC (South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation) Council of Ministers agreed to grant observer status to the EU. The EU will therefore attend the next SAARC Summit, to be held on 3 and 4 April in New Delhi.
352. The very significant strides taken in implementation of the Joint Action Plan were measured in a report adopted at the seventh EU-India Summit, held in Helsinki on 13 October 2006. Both sides welcomed the progress achieved and reaffirmed their commitment to take it forward.
353. Prospects heading into 2007 are exciting. Various high-level meetings, including the Security Dialogue and a Ministerial Troika with India in May as well as the 7th EU-India Summit in the second half of the year, will help to develop the potential of the relationship. Work will also continue under the Joint Action Plan, which will pass the midway point of its three year life during 2007.

7.5 - Nepal

354. Since April 2006, Nepal has embarked on a peace process which has led to an interim Parliament and an interim constitution. The formation of an interim government, including the CPN-Maoist, is expected in March/April 2007. Elections for the Constituent Assembly are scheduled for mid-June 2007.

A Troika of EU Regional Directors visited Kathmandu from 15 to 17 November 2006 to support a sustainable resolution of the armed conflict and to confirm EU willingness to support the peace process in coordination with the international community, especially with the UN. The EU has sent an Election Exploratory Mission (ExM) from 7-15 February 2007, and is considering sending an EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) for the Constituent Assembly elections probably in June 2007 .

7.6 - Sri Lanka

355. As for many years, the main preoccupation of the Council in 2006 regarding Sri Lanka remained the conflict between the government and the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam). The EU continued its participation as a Co-Chair of the process launched at the 2003 Tokyo Conference on Reconstruction and Development in Sri Lanka. As such, the EU continued to offer wholehearted and unanimous support to Norway in its difficult role of facilitator.
356. Unfortunately, 2006 witnessed a deterioration in the security situation, leading to a worsening humanitarian and human rights situation. The EU spoke out forcefully on this, appealing to the parties to the conflict to cease hostilities and resume peace talks. Faced with continuing attacks by the LTTE, including some affecting members of the SLMM (Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission), the Council decided on 29 May 2006 to include the LTTE on its list of terrorist organisations⁷⁰.
357. Although 2006 failed to produce a breakthrough, the EU continued to invest much effort in seeking a solution to the conflict. It carried out a thorough review of policy through two expert meetings. It also drew on the EP resolutions of 18 May and 7 September 2006.
358. The prospects for progress in 2007 depend essentially on the willingness of the two sides to engage seriously with each other in a sustainable path towards peace. The EU will continue to support all efforts towards this objective.

⁷⁰ OJ L 144, 31.5.2006, p. 21.

7.7 - Indonesia

359. Relations between the EU and Indonesia continued to develop positively in 2006, continuing the trend of recent years. The EU-Indonesia Foreign Ministers' troika was held in Vienna on 27 March. HR Solana visited Indonesia in April. Human rights continued to be an important aspect of EU dialogue with Indonesia.

Several démarches were carried out in Jakarta on the death penalty in general and on the sentencing and execution of three Christian activists in Sulawesi in particular.

360. In addition to exchanges on bilateral issues, the agenda increasingly included regional and global themes. In particular, the success of the EU-led Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), including the positive interaction between the EU, Indonesia and ASEAN member states which made it possible, had a significantly positive effect on EU-Indonesia relations.

Assessment of the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM)

361. The AMM was extended three times during 2006⁷¹, following an invitation by the Government of Indonesia supported by GAM. The costs of the mission are financed from the EU budget (EUR 9,3 million) and by contributions from EU Member States and participating countries (EUR 6 million). On 15 December 2006, the Aceh Monitoring Mission successfully completed its mandate in monitoring and supporting the peace process in Aceh.

362. Both parties agreed that the demobilisation of GAM and the decommissioning of its 840 weapons was completed, and that the non-organic military and police forces had been relocated from Aceh. Reintegration programmes are now underway. The Indonesian Parliament has enacted new legislation on the governing of Aceh. The human rights situation in Aceh is stable.

⁷¹ On 27 February 2006, the EU Council adopted Joint Action 2006/202/CFSP to extend the duration of the mission for a further period of three months until 15 June 2006 (starting on 15 March). On 7 June 2006 the EU Council adopted Joint Action 2006/407/CFSP to extend the AMM until 15 September 2006. On 7 September 2006 the Council adopted Joint Action 2006/643/CFSP to extend the duration of AMM for the final three months until 15 December 2006.

363. The election of a former GAM rebel as Governor of Aceh on 11 December 2006 is likely to prove to be beneficial to the peace process. Significant political will for peace exists between the parties. The EU should continue to take an interest in the further sustainability of the peace process.
364. From an ESDP perspective, AMM has been a unique mission in many ways, including in its collaboration with 5 ASEAN Member States (Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand). It is also the first time that civilian and military personnel was deployed in mixed teams in the framework of a civilian ESDP mission. AMM was also rapidly deployed, included an Initial Monitoring Presence and incorporated DDR and Human Rights monitoring for the first time in an EU mission. The EU's involvement in the Aceh peace process is a good example of how the EU's different instruments can be deployed in a coordinated manner to provide a real contribution to consolidating a peace process and the sustainability of the political settlement. The EU support to the Aceh peace process doubtlessly played a decisive role in making it a great success.
365. The outlook for EU-Indonesia relations in 2007 is good. Both sides are determined to further develop the partnership, building inter alia on the positive experience of working together on Aceh and AMM. The EU and Indonesia are exploring ways to deepen their political dialogue, and negotiations will continue on an EU-Indonesia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. Indonesia's ever growing importance as a regional and global player will have an effect on the nature of exchanges in 2007, reflecting converging global interests where the EU and Indonesia, which is a member of the UNSC in 2007/2008, increasingly regard each other as dialogue partners. Indonesia is an EU partner country in the fight against terrorism. The EU also finances the Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement.

7.8 - Burma/Myanmar

366. The EU continued to use all appropriate opportunities to deplore human rights violations in Burma/Myanmar as well as the lack of progress towards the political reform, social development and national reconciliation promised by the Burma/Myanmar government.

The EU urged the Burma/Myanmar authorities to respect human rights and release political prisoners, as well as to restore democracy and pursue genuine national reconciliation. The EU also called for the inclusiveness and the transparency of the National Convention. There were no EU Troika visits to the country in 2006.

367. In April 2006, the Council extended the EU's Common Position on Burma/Myanmar renewing targeted restrictive measures for a further twelve months, and bringing them into line with an overall adaptation of EU sanctions⁷². The EU confirmed its readiness to react proportionately to developments in Burma/Myanmar, either positive or negative, and recalled that it is the biggest humanitarian assistance donor to the country, with a focus on food aid, health and education. The EU called on several occasions for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
368. At political dialogue meetings, the Council invited Asian partners to use their influence on the Burma/Myanmar authorities to promote change, and welcomed the high-level visits by ASEAN representatives to Burma/Myanmar. At the EU's initiative, the situation in Burma/Myanmar was a major topic at the ASEM Summit (September) and the ARF Ministerial (Kuala Lumpur, July).
369. The Council fully supported the efforts of the UN Secretary General in Burma/Myanmar and welcomed the two visits of UN USG Gambari to the country. The EU encouraged the Burma/Myanmar government to ensure swift follow-up to these visits. Council working groups again received the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma/Myanmar, Mr Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. The EU, in the UN Human Rights Council, advocated the preservation of the mandate of special rapporteur on Burma/Myanmar. As the Human Rights Council has not yet considered any country resolutions in 2006, the EU directly tabled a resolution on Burma/Myanmar in the UNGA Third Committee. All EU members of the UN Security Council voted in favour of a US-drafted resolution, co-sponsored by the UK, expressing deep concern at the situation in the country and calling upon the Government to act.

⁷² Common Position 2006/318/CFSP of 27 April 2006

370. The Common Position will be reviewed in 2007. Independently of this review, the EU will continue to raise the issue at meetings with regional partners . The EU will also continue to discuss the situation in Burma/Myanmar with like-minded partners and countries in the region, including ASEAN, China and India.

7.9 - China

371. 2006 was an important year in China-EU relations. Through the Council conclusions adopted by the GAERC in December, the Commission Communication "EU-China: closer partners, growing responsibilities" and the Commission working paper "Competition and Partnership", the EU comprehensively reviewed and restated its policy towards China. The EU made clear that it remains committed to the maturing of its comprehensive strategic partnership with China, and underlined the importance of balance, reciprocity and mutual benefit in the relationship. The conclusions also made clear the importance of the partnership in addressing global challenges, and noted the key role of China in the effective international response to these issues. In this context, close contacts and cooperation through the year continued on a broad range of international foreign and security policy issues, including on DPRK, Iran and Sudan/Darfur.

372. To develop a practical basis for the strategic partnership, it was agreed at the China-EU Summit in September 2006 to launch negotiations on a single and over-arching Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. This agreement will encompass the full scope of the bilateral relationship, be forward looking and reflect the priorities in the GAERC conclusions and the communication. Negotiations are to begin in January 2007. Another important agreement at the Summit was to engage in a structured dialogue on Africa, an area of key strategic interest to both the EU and China.

The first such dialogue is planned to take place in the first half of 2007. The bilateral EU-China dialogue continued at a variety of levels, including the Summit, biannual Foreign Ministers meetings, the second annual vice-ministerial Strategic Dialogue, and others ranging from senior official dialogue to experts' meetings on a wide variety of subjects, complemented by regular informal dialogue and contacts in multilateral fora.

373. The GAERC conclusions of 11 December 2006 highlighted other important priorities in the partnership, including energy security, climate change, protection of the environment, support for Chinese internal economic and political reform, human rights, cross-Straits stability and non-proliferation. The conclusions also provided an important forward statement on trade and economic relations.
374. After these significant policy statements in 2006, 2007 is likely to be a year of consolidation, with implementation of the GAERC conclusions and the Commission communication. This includes the need to take stock of the variety of sectoral dialogues currently in place. The Presidency, High Representatives and other Council bodies will remain actively engaged with China in pursuit of these objectives and in addressing international issues of mutual concern.

7.10 - Japan

375. Close cooperation between the EU and Japan continued during 2006. The EU-Japan Summit, held in Tokyo on 24 April 2006, addressed specific areas for action and cooperation, notably on the basis of the 2001 EU-Japan Action Plan. Two sessions of the strategic dialogue on the East Asian security environment were held, addressing issues such as the situation in the Korean Peninsula, the military balance in East Asia as well as East Asia's role in the developing world. Moreover, the strategic dialogue was developed further so as also to include discussion of Central Asia. The strategic dialogue is proving extremely useful both to deepen the EU's understanding of strategic issues in the East Asia region and Japanese appreciation of the EU's role in East Asia, as well as to improve cooperation on these issues between the EU and Japan. A joint symposium on "New Visions of EU-Japan relations" was organised in Brussels in April 2006, to mark the 5th year of cooperation under the EU-Japan Action Plan. In 2007, the EU and Japan will pursue wide-ranging discussion on international and regional issues, including discussion on Iran, the Korean Peninsula and Afghanistan as well as climate and energy issues. An EU-Japan seminar on "Resource Competition and Power Balance in East Asia – A EU-Japan Perspective" will be held in March 2007. The strategic dialogue on the East Asian security environment and on Central Asia will be further developed.

The forthcoming EU-Japan Summit, scheduled for the late spring 2007 in Germany, will specifically address these issues.

7.11 - South Korea

376. The excellent relations between the EU and South Korea were consolidated in 2006 with an EU-Korea Ministerial meeting on 28 July in Kuala Lumpur and the EU-Korea Summit on 9 September in Helsinki. Subjects discussed included the situation on the Korean peninsula, bilateral relations - in particular possibilities for a bilateral Free Trade Agreement - and Iran. In March 2006 the regular EU-Regional Directors Troika meeting with South Korea was upgraded to an “enhanced dialogue” on regional issues, including the Strategic balance in East Asia, China and Regional cooperation in Northeast Asia. In 2007 the EU-Korea enhanced dialogue will be continued with another meeting at Regional Directors level, with bilateral and regional topics on the agenda. A further ministerial meeting is expected for the 2nd half of 2007. The recently agreed initial steps on solving the nuclear crisis will be among the topics to be discussed.

CHAPTER 8- LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

8.1 - Regional approaches

377. Preparing for the Summit, the Council adopted conclusions on EU-Latin America and EU-Caribbean relations in February 2006, including the need for a well-tailored political dialogue, to help strengthen the biregional capacity to deal with global issues. These conclusions were reflected in the final Summit declaration:

378. Progress in biregional agreements constituted the major expectations and also the principal accomplishments at the IV EU-LAC Summit which took place in an excellent atmosphere and was attended by a record number of Heads of State and Government as well as by the Secretary General of the United Nations. The Vienna declaration was adopted by consensus. The EU and Mercosur instructed negotiators to intensify their efforts to move the process forward.

The EU and Central America decided to launch negotiations for an Association Agreement; and the EU and the Andean Community, after Venezuela's departure shortly beforehand, decided to initiate a process during 2006 leading to similar negotiations. In the light of convincing commitments by both Central America and the Andean Community, the Commission submitted draft negotiating directives for Association Agreements to the Council, which the Council immediately started to examine in late 2006.

With Venezuela's recent accession, the new Mercosur will encompass more than 250 million people and will combine huge energy resources with Mercosur's agricultural potential.

The negotiations with the Caribbean on an Economic Partnership Agreement were successfully continued, with a view to their conclusion in 2007.

379. On the environment, the EU and Latin American and Caribbean partners launched a dialogue at political level, including on a coherent institutional framework to integrate the environment better into the policy on sustainable development. Social cohesion will continue to be a fundamental guiding principle for cooperation. Comprehensive dialogue on all dimensions of migration will be taken forward. Concrete promotion of joint research and development, mobility and innovation activities, as well as the creation of a common EU-LAC space of higher education figure among the priorities. The EU and LAC also held in-depth discussions on global energy issues, including renewable energy, and on an integrated natural disaster management and prevention approach.
380. All three LA integration schemes were faced with serious internal problems. The outcome of the Summit and the Subsummits clearly show the important mediating role the EU can and did play to maintain momentum in regional integration in LA. The perspective of concluding Association Agreements with the EU has clearly convinced the Central American and Andean countries to undertake the necessary commitments on progress in regional integration without which a conclusion of negotiations would not be realistic.
381. Small working tables at the EU-LAC Summit allowed intensive and spontaneous discussions among Heads of States and Government. Due to a coherent EU position from the start, EU-LAC Foreign ministers did not have to negotiate texts of the declaration, but could discuss issues of common interest.

The various preparatory meetings - involving business representatives, experts on drugs, migration, science and technology, social cohesion, energy, information society, and various sectors of civil society - contributed to raising awareness in our societies about the added value of the Strategic Partnership, and to concrete areas and ways to take it forward.

The Latin America regional parliaments and the European Parliament decided to set up the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLAT), which will play an essential role in strengthening democracies by an open exchange of views on challenges, risks and appropriate solutions, reinforce their roots in society and bring our people closer together.

382. The preparation of the fifth European Union - Latin American and Caribbean Summit (16-17 May 2008 in Lima) is well under way with meetings at Senior Officials level in St.Kitts and Lima.

Adoption of the draft negotiating directives for the Association Agreements with the Central American and Andean countries is planned in the first quarter of 2007. As concerns Mercosur, the EU hopes that - more than in the past - political commitments will be followed up by comprehensive new offers.

During 2006 the EU upheld its political engagement in Latin America and realized four important Electoral Observation Missions: Bolivia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

Furthermore, a Political Dialogue meeting took place on ministerial level between the EU and the Rio-Group at the margins of the UN General Assembly. The EU continued to pay particular attention to political developments in Bolivia, Colombia and Haiti.

8.2 - Cuba

383. In its re-evaluation of the Common Position, the Council reiterated in June 2006 that a constructive engagement and a critical and comprehensive dialogue with the Cuban authorities as well as with Cuba's peaceful political opposition and civil society remained the basis for its policy towards Cuba. Using the full range of its resources at its disposal, the EU will continue to offer practical support towards peaceful developments to all sectors of society in Cuba.

384. The Council repeated its urgent request for the release all political prisoners, and for acts of harassment to stop. The Cuban authorities are not fulfilling their obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The EU expects from Cuba, as a member of the UN Council on Human Rights, the commitment to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The EU would welcome the resumption of a political dialogue with the Cuban authorities on all issues of mutual concern including Human Rights. The Council underlined that every high-level visitor should raise human rights concerns with the Cuban authorities.

385. The EU stands ready to provide cooperation, including projects that promote sustainable economic growth and improvements in the living standards of the Cuban people.

386. The EU intends to consult more closely with international partners. In this respect, the EU will continue to advocate the lifting of the US embargo against Cuba (the abolition of the Helms-Burton legislation).

The EP has regularly been informed by the Council on its policy.

ACTES JURIDIQUES PESC 2006

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.
AFGHANISTAN			
20.02.2006	Prorogation du mandat de M. Francesco VENDRELL comme représentant spécial	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/124/PESC L 49 (21.02.2006)
ASIE CENTRALE			
05.10.2006	Nomination du nouveau représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/670/PESC L 275 (06.10.2006)
20.02.2006	Prorogation du mandat du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/118/PESC L 49 (21.02.2006)
BALKANS OCCIDENTAUX			
11.12.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2006/304/PESC sur la mise en place d'une équipe de planification de l'UE (EPUE Kosovo) en ce qui concerne l'opération de gestion de crise que l'UE pourrait mener au Kosovo dans le domaine de l'État de droit et, éventuellement, dans d'autres domaines	art. 14	2006/918/PESC L 349 (12.12.2006)
30.11.2006	Prorogation et modification du mandat de la Mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne (EUMM)	art. 14	2006/867/PESC L 335, 01.12.2006 RECTIFICATIF L 349 (12.12.2006)
30.11.2006	Prorogation du mandat du chef de la Mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne (EUMM)	art. 23(2); action commune 2002/921/PESC art. 5(1)	2006/866/PESC L 335 (01.12.2006)
28.11.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2005/824/PESC relative à la Mission de police de l'Union européenne (MPUE) en Bosnie-Herzégovine	action commune 2005/824/PESC art. 11(2); art. 23(2)	2006/865/PESC L 335 (01.12.2006)
05.10.2006	Prorogation de la validité de la position commune 2004/694/PESC concernant de nouvelles mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en œuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	art. 15	2006/671/PESC L 275 (06.10.2006)
15.09.2006	Création d'une équipe de l'UE chargée de contribuer à la préparation de la mise en place d'une éventuelle mission civile internationale au Kosovo incluant un représentant spécial de l'Union européenne (équipe de préparation de la MCI/RSUE)	art. 14, art. 25	2006/623/CFSP L 253 (16.09.2006)
27.07.2006	Modification du mandat du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-Herzégovine	art. 14, art. 18 (5), art.23 (2)	2006/523/PESC L 205 (27.07.2006)
11.07.2006	Implémentation de la Position commune 2004/694/PESC et renouvellement des mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en œuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	position commune 2004/694/PESC art. 2; art. 23 § 2	2006/484/PESC L 189 (12.07.2006)
10.04.2006	Mise en place d'une équipe de planification de l'UE (EPUE/EUPT Kosovo) en ce qui concerne l'opération de gestion de crise que l'UE pourrait mener au Kosovo dans le domaine de l'État de droit et, éventuellement, dans d'autres domaines	art. 14, art. 25 al. 3	2006/304/PESC L 112 (26.04.2006)
20.02.2006	Prorogation et modification du mandat de M. Erwan FOUÉRÉ comme Représentant spécial dans l'ARYM	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/123/PESC L 49 (21.02.2006)
10.03.2006	Implémentation de la Position commune 2004/694/PESC et renouvellement des mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en œuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	art. 2, art. 23 § 2	2006/205/PESC L 72 (11.03.2006)
10.03.2006	Renouvellement des mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en œuvre effective du mandat du TPIY	art. 15	2006/204/PESC L 72 (11.03.2006)
30.01.2006	Nomination du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 14, art. 18 (5), art.23 (2)	2006/49/PESC L 26 (31.01.2006)
30.01.2006	Prorogation et modification de la position commune 2004/133/PESC concernant mesures restrictives à l'égard d'extrémistes dans l'ARYM	art. 15	2006/50/PESC L 26 (31.01.2006)
23.01.2006	Exportations d'armes à destination de l'ex-Yougoslavie, abrogeant la position commune 1996/184/PESC	art. 15	2006/29/PESC L 19 (24.01.2006)

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.
BIELORUSSIE			
23.10.2006	Mise en œuvre de la position commune 2006/276/PESC concernant des mesures restrictives à l'encontre de certains fonctionnaires de Biélorussie	art. 23(2)	2006/718/PESC L 294 (25.10.2006)
18.05.2006	Modification de la position commune 2006/276/PESC concernant des mesures restrictives à l'encontre de certains fonctionnaires de Biélorussie	art. 15	2006/362/PESC L 134 (20.05.2006)
10.04.2006	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de certains fonctionnaires de Biélorussie et abrogation de la position commune 2004/661/PESC	art. 15	2006/276/PESC L 101 (11.04.2006)
BIRMANIE			
27.04.2006	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Birmanie/du Myanmar	art. 15	2006/318/PESC L 116 (29.04.2006)
CAUCASE DU SUD			
27.06.2006	Nouvelle contribution de l'Union européenne au processus de règlement du conflit en Géorgie/Ossétie du Sud	art. 14	2006/439/PESC L 174 (28.06.2006)
20.03.2006	Accord entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement de Géorgie relatif au statut en Géorgie du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Caucase du Sud et de son équipe de soutien	art. 24	2006/366/PESC L 135 (23.05.2006)
20.02.2006	Nomination de M. Peter SEMNEBY comme représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/121/PESC L 49 (21.02.2006)
COTE D'IVOIRE			
11.07.2006	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Côte d'Ivoire	art. 6 de la position commune 2004/852/PESC; art. 23 (2)	2006/483/PESC L 189 (12.07.2006)
27.02.2006	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Côte d'Ivoire	art. 6 de la position commune 2004/852/PESC; art. 23 (2)	2006/172/PESC L 61 (02.03.2006)
23.01.2006	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Côte d'Ivoire	art. 15	2006/30/PESC L 19 (24.01.2006)
COUR PÉNALE INTERNATIONALE			
10.04.2006	Conclusion de l'accord de coopération et d'assistance entre la Cour pénale internationale et l'Union européenne	art. 24	2006/313/PESC L 115 (28.04.2006)
INDONÉSIE			
07.09.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/643/PESC concernant la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh — MSA)	art. 14	2006/607/PESC L 246 (08.09.2006)
07.06.2006	Prorogation de l'accord sous forme d'échange de lettres entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement indonésien relatif aux tâches, au statut et aux privilèges et immunités de la Mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (Mission de surveillance à Aceh-MSA) et de son personnel	art. 24	2006/448/PESC L 176 (30.06.2006)
07.06.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/643/PESC concernant la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh — MSA)	art. 14	2006/407/PESC L 158 (10.06.2006)
27.02.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/643/PESC concernant la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh — MSA)	art. 14	2006/202/PESC L 71 (10.03.2006)
27.02.2006	Prorogation d'accord d'Echange de lettres entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement indonésien relatif aux tâches, au statut et aux privilèges et immunités de la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh-MSA) et de son personnel	art. 24	2006/201/PESC L 71 (10.03.2006)
KEDO			
20.03.2006	Participation de l'Union européenne à l'Organisation pour le développement de l'énergie dans la péninsule coréenne (KEDO)	art. 15	2006/244/PESC L 88 (25.03.2006)
LIBAN			
15.09.2006	Interdiction de vendre ou de fournir des armes et du matériel connexe, ainsi que de fournir des services y afférents à des entités ou à des individus situés au Liban, conformément à la résolution 1701 (2006) du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies	art. 15	2006/625/PESC L 253 (16.09.2006)

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.
LIBERIA			
24.07.2006	Modification et prorogation des certaines mesures restrictives instituées à l'encontre du Liberia	art. 15	2006/518/PESC L 201 (25.07.2006)
23.01.2006	Renouvelant les mesures restrictives instituées à l'encontre du Liberia	art. 15	2006/31/PESC L 19 (24.01.2006)
LUTTE CONTRE LE TERRORISME			
21.12.2006	Mise en œuvre de la position commune 2001/931/PESC relative à l'application de mesures spécifiques en vue de lutter contre le terrorisme	art. 15 et 34	2006/1011/PESC L 379 (28.12.2006)
21.12.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'article 2, paragraphe 3, du règlement (CE) no 2580/2001 concernant l'adoption de mesures restrictives spécifiques à l'encontre de certaines personnes et entités dans le cadre de la lutte contre le terrorisme	règl. CE 2580/2001, art. 2(3)	2006/1008/CE L 379 (28.12.2006)
29.05.2006	Mise à jour l'article 2, paragraphe 3, du règlement (CE) n° 2580/2001 concernant l'adoption de mesures restrictives spécifiques à l'encontre de certaines personnes et entités dans le cadre de la lutte contre le terrorisme, et abrogeant la décision 2005/930/CE	règl. CE 2580/2001, art. 2 § 3	2006/379/CE L 144 (31.05.2006)
29.05.2006	Mise à jour de la position commune 2001/931/PESC et abrogation de la position commune 2006/231/PESC	art. 15 et 34	2006/380/PESC L 144 (31.05.2006)
20.03.2006	Mise à jour de la position commune 2001/931/PESC et abrogation de la position commune 2005/936/PESC	art. 15 et 34	2006/231/PESC L 82 (21.03.2006)
MOLDAVIE			
20.02.2006	Prorogation du mandat de M. Adriaan JACOBVITS de SZEGED comme Représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/120/PESC L 49 (21.02.2006)
14.02.2006	Mise en œuvre la position commune 2004/179/PESC concernant des mesures restrictives à l'encontre des dirigeants de la région de Transnistrie	art. 2 § 1, art. 23 § 2	2006/96/PESC L 44 (15.02.2006)
14.02.2006	Prorogant des mesures restrictives à l'encontre des dirigeants de la région de Transnistrie	art. 15	2006/95/PESC L 44 (15.02.2006)
NON-PROLIFERATION			
11.12.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2002/589/PESC en vue d'une contribution de l'Union européenne à la lutte contre l'accumulation et la diffusion déstabilisatrices d'armes légères et de petit calibre en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes	action commune 2002/589/PESC art. 6, art. 7; art. 23(2)	2006/1000/PESC L 367 (22.12.2006)
12.06.2006	Mise en œuvre de la résolution 1540 (2004) du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies et dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de l'UE contre la prolifération des armes de destruction massive	art. 14	2006/419/PESC L 165 (17.06.2006)
12.06.2006	Soutien aux activités de l'AIEA dans les domaines de la sécurité et de la vérification nucléaires et dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de l'UE contre la prolifération des armes de destruction massive	art. 14	2006/418/PESC L 165 (17.06.2006)
20.03.2006	Soutien aux activités de la Commission préparatoire de l'Organisation du Traité d'interdiction complète des essais nucléaires (OTICE) => (CTBTO)	art. 14	2006/243/PESC L 88 (25.03.2006)
20.03.2006	Conférence d'examen de la convention sur l'interdiction des armes biologiques et à toxines qui aura lieu en 2006 (BTWC)	art. 15	2006/242/PESC L 88 (25.03.2006)
27.02.2006	Convention sur l'interdiction des armes biologiques et à toxines dans le cadre de la stratégie de l'Union européenne contre la prolifération des armes de destruction massive (BTWC)	art. 14	2006/184/PESC L 65 (07.03.2006)
OUZBÉKISTAN			
13.11.2006	Renouvellement de certaines mesures restrictives à l'encontre de l'Ouzbékistan	art. 15	2006/787/PESC L 318 (17.11.2006)

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.
PESD			
21.12.2006	Modification de l'action commune 2001/555/PESC relative à la création d'un centre satellitaire de l'Union européenne	art. 14	2006/1002/PESC L 409 (30.12.2006)
21.12.2006	Modification de l'action commune 2001/555/PESC relative à la création d'un centre satellitaire de l'Union européenne	art. 14	2006/998/PESC L 405 (30.12.2006)
12.12.2006	Prorogation du mandat du chef de l'équipe de planification de l'UE (EPUE Kosovo) en ce qui concerne l'opération de gestion de crise que l'UE pourrait mener au Kosovo dans le domaine de l'État de droit et, éventuellement, dans d'autres domaines	art. 25 action commune 2006/304/PESC art. 6(2)	2006/980/PESC L 365 (21.12.2006)
05.12.2006	Prorogation du mandat du chef de mission/commissaire de police de la Mission de police de l'Union européenne (MPUE) en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 25 action commune 2005/824/PESC art. 9(1)	2006/979/PESC L 365 (21.12.2006)
11.12.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2006/304/PESC sur la mise en place d'une équipe de planification de l'UE (EPUE Kosovo) en ce qui concerne l'opération de gestion de crise que l'UE pourrait mener au Kosovo dans le domaine de l'État de droit et, éventuellement, dans d'autres domaines	art. 14	2006/918/PESC L 349 (12.12.2006)
07.12.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2004/847/PESC relative à la mission de police de l'Union européenne à Kinshasa (RDC) en ce qui concerne l'unité de police intégrée (EUPOL "Kinshasa")	art. 14, art. 25	2006/913/PESC L 346 (09.12.2006)
30.11.2006	Modification de l'action commune 2004/847/PESC relative à la mission de police de l'Union européenne à Kinshasa (RDC) en ce qui concerne l'unité de police intégrée (EUPOL "Kinshasa")	art. 14	2006/868/PESC L 335 (01.12.2006)
30.11.2006	Prorogation et modification du mandat de la Mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne (EUMM)	art. 14	2006/867/PESC L 335 (01.12.2006) RECTIFICATIF L 349 (12.12.2006)
30.11.2006	Prorogation du mandat du chef de la Mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne (EUMM)	art. 23(2); action commune 2002/921/PESC art. 5(1)	2006/866/PESC L 335 (01.12.2006)
28.11.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2005/824/PESC relative à la Mission de police de l'Union européenne (MPUE) en Bosnie-Herzégovine	action commune 2005/824/PESC art. 11(2); art. 23(2)	2006/865/PESC L 335 (01.12.2006)
21.11.2006	Nomination du chef de mission/commissaire de police de la mission de police de l'Union européenne pour les territoires palestiniens (EUPOL COPPS)	art. 25; action commune 2005/797/PESC art. 11(2)	2006/853/PESC L 331 (29.11.2006)
20.11.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2005/797/PESC concernant la mission de police de l'Union européenne pour les territoires palestiniens	action commune 2005/797/PESC art. 14(2); art. 23(2)	2006/807/PESC L 329 (25.11.2006)
13.11.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/889/PESC établissant une mission de l'Union européenne d'assistance à la frontière au point de passage de Rafah (EU BAM Rafah)	art. 14	2006/773/PESC L 313 (14.11.2006)
17.10.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2005/557/PESC concernant l'action de soutien civilo-militaire de l'Union européenne à la mission de l'Union africaine dans la région soudanaise du Darfour	art. 8(1), art. 23(2)	2006/725/PESC L 296 (26.10.2006)
24.10.2006	Nomination d'un chef de l'équipe de police de l'Union européenne/conseiller du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne en matière de police pour le Soudan	art. 25; action commune 2005/557/PESC art. 4	2006/756/PESC L 309 (09.11.2006)
17.10.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/190/PESC relative à la mission intégrée "État de droit" de l'Union européenne pour l'Iraq, EUJUST LEX	art. 14	2006/708/PESC L 291 (21.10.2006)
15.09.2006	Projet de décision du Conseil concernant la prorogation de l'accord sous forme d'échange de lettres entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement indonésien relatif aux tâches, au statut et aux privilèges et immunités de la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh-MSA) et de son personnel	art. 24	2006/666/PESC L 273 (04.10.2006)
15.09.2006	Création d'une équipe de l'UE chargée de contribuer à la préparation de la mise en place d'une éventuelle mission civile internationale au Kosovo incluant un représentant spécial de l'Union européenne (équipe de préparation de la MCI/RSUE)	art. 14, art. 25	2006/623/CFSP L 253 (16.09.2006)
07.09.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/643/PESC concernant la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh — MSA)	art. 14	2006/607/PESC L 246 (08.09.2006)

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.
10.08.2006	Conclusion de l'accord sous forme d'échange de lettres entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement de la Confédération suisse sur la participation de la Confédération suisse à l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 24	2006/676/PESC L 276 (07.10.2006)
10.08.2006	Contribution de la Confédération suisse à l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 13 § 3	2006/675/PESC L 276 (07.10.2006)
25.07.2006	Nomination d'un conseiller militaire du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Soudan	art. 25; action commune 2005/557/PESC art. 4	2006/634/PESC L 258 (21.09.2006)
11.07.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2005/557/PESC concernant l'action de soutien civilo-militaire de l'Union européenne à la mission de l'Union africaine dans la région soudanaise du Darfour	art. 23(2)	2006/486/PESC L 192 (13.07.2006)
30.06.2006	Conclusion de l'accord entre l'UE et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine sur la participation de l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine à l'opération militaire de gestion de crise menée par l'Union européenne en Bosnie-Herzégovine (opération ALTHEA)	art. 24	2006/477/PESC L 188 (11.07.2006)
27.06.2006	Nomination du commandant de la force de l'UE pour l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 25 §3; action commune 2004/570/PESC, art. 6	2006/497/PESC BiH/9/2006 L 196 (18.07.2006)
13.06.2006	Prorogation du mandat du chef de la mission intégrée "État de droit" de l'Union européenne pour l'Iraq, EUJUST LEX	art. 25 ; action commune 2005/190/PESC, art. 11 § 2	2006/449/PESC EUJUST LEX/1/2006 L 176 (30.06.2006)
12.06.2006	Accord entre l'Union européenne et la République gabonaise relatif au statut des forces placées sous la direction de l'Union européenne dans la République gabonaise (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 24	2006/475/PESC L 187 (08.07.2006)
12.06.2006	Mission intégrée État de droit de l'Union européenne pour l'Iraq, EUJUST LEX	art. 14, art. 25 § 3,	2006/413/PESC L 163 (15.06.2006)
12.06.2006	Lancement de l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	action commune 2006/319/PESC, art. 5	2006/412/PESC L 163 (15.06.2006)
07.06.2006	Prorogation de l'accord sous forme d'échange de lettres entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement indonésien relatif aux tâches, au statut et aux privilèges et immunités de la Mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (Mission de surveillance à Aceh-MSA) et de son personnel	art. 24	2006/448/PESC L 176 (30.06.2006)
07.06.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/643/PESC concernant la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh — MSA)	art. 14	2006/407/PESC L 158 (10.06.2006)
30.05.2006	Acceptation de contributions d'États tiers à l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral	at. 25; action commune 2006/319/PESC, art. 10 § 2	2006/499/PESC MONUC SPT/1/2006 L 197 (19.07.2006)
30.05.2006	Etablissement du Comité des contributeurs pour l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral	at. 25; action commune 2006/319/PESC, art. 10 § 5	2006/492/PESC MONUC SPT/2/2006 L 194 (14.07.2006)
02.05.2006	Nomination du chef de l'équipe de planification de l'UE (EPUE Kosovo) en ce qui concerne l'opération de gestion de crise que l'UE pourrait mener au Kosovo dans le domaine de l'État de droit et, éventuellement, dans d'autres domaines	art. 25; action commune 2006/304/PESC, art. 6	2006/353/PESC EUPT/1/2006 L 130 (18.05.2006)
27.04.2006	Adoption de l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 14, art. 25 al. 3	2006/319/PESC L 116 (29.04.2006)
25.04.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/355/PESC relative à la mission de conseil et d'assistance de l'Union européenne en matière de réforme du secteur de la sécurité en République démocratique du Congo (RDC)	art. 14	2006/303/PESC L 112 (26.04.2006)
21.04.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2004/847/PESC relative à la mission de police de l'Union européenne à Kinshasa (RDC) en ce qui concerne l'unité de police intégrée (EUPOL Kinshasa)	art. 14, art. 25 al. 3	2006/300/PESC L 111 (25.04.2006)

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.
10.04.2006	Mise en place d'une équipe de planification de l'UE (EPUE/EUPT Kosovo) en ce qui concerne l'opération de gestion de crise que l'UE pourrait mener au Kosovo dans le domaine de l'État de droit et, éventuellement, dans d'autres domaines	art. 14, art. 25 al. 3	2006/304/PESC L 112 (26.04.2006)
10.04.2006	Accord entre l'Union européenne et la République de Turquie établissant un cadre pour la participation de la République de Turquie aux opérations de gestion de crises menées par l'Union européenne	art. 24	2006/482/PESC L 189 (12.07.2006)
20.03.2006	Accord entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement de Géorgie relatif au statut en Géorgie du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Caucase du Sud et de son équipe de soutien	art. 24	2006/366/PESC L 135 (23.05.2006)
15.03.2006	Modification de la décision BiH/1/2004 relative à l'acceptation de contributions d'États tiers à l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine et la décision BiH/3/2004 établissant le comité des contributeurs pour l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 25 §3	2006/267/PESC BiH/8/2006 L 96 (05.04.2006)
27.02.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/643/PESC concernant la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh — MSA)	art. 14	2006/202/PESC L 71 (10.03.2006)
27.02.2006	Prorogation d'accord d'Echange de lettres entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement indonésien relatif aux tâches, au statut et aux privilèges et immunités de la mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne à Aceh (Indonésie) (mission de surveillance à Aceh-MSA) et de son personnel	art. 24	2006/201/PESC L 71 (10.03.2006)
PROCESSUS DE PAIX AU MOYEN-ORIENT			
20.11.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2005/797/PESC concernant la mission de police de l'Union européenne pour les territoires palestiniens	action commune 2005/797/PESC art. 14(2); art. 23(2)	2006/807/PESC L 329 (25.11.2006)
13.11.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/889/PESC établissant une mission de l'Union européenne d'assistance à la frontière au point de passage de Rafah (EU BAM Rafah)	art. 14	2006/773/PESC L 313 (14.11.2006)
07.11.2006	Accueil temporaire de certains Palestiniens par des États membres de l'UE	art. 15	2006/755/PESC L 308 (08.11.2006)
20.02.2006	Prorogation du mandat de M. Marc OTTE comme représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/119/PESC L 49 (21.02.2006)
RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS			
15.09.2006	Modification de la position commune 2005/440/PESC concernant l'adoption de mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la République démocratique du Congo	art. 15	2006/624/PESC L 253 (16.09.2006)
10.08.2006	Conclusion de l'accord sous forme d'échange de lettres entre l'Union européenne et le gouvernement de la Confédération suisse sur la participation de la Confédération suisse à l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 24	2006/676/PESC L 276 (07.10.2006)
10.08.2006	Contribution de la Confédération suisse à l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 13 § 3	2006/675/PESC L 276 (07.10.2006)
12.06.2006	Accord entre l'Union européenne et la République gabonaise relatif au statut des forces placées sous la direction de l'Union européenne dans la République gabonaise (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 24	2006/475/PESC L 187 (08.07.2006)
12.06.2006	Lancement de l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (opération EUFOR RD Congo)	action commune 2006/319/PESC, art. 5	2006/412/PESC L 163 (15.06.2006)
27.04.2006	Adoption de l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne d'appui à la mission de l'Organisation des Nations unies en République démocratique du Congo (MONUC) pendant le processus électoral (EUFOR RD Congo)	art. 14, art. 25 al. 3	2006/319/PESC L 116 (29.04.2006)
25.04.2006	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2005/355/PESC relative à la mission de conseil et d'assistance de l'Union européenne en matière de réforme du secteur de la sécurité en République démocratique du Congo (RDC)	art. 14	2006/303/PESC L 112 (26.04.2006)
20.02.2006	Prorogation du mandat de M. Aldo AJELLO comme représentant spécial	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2006/122/PESC L 49 (21.02.2006)
RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DÉMOCRATIQUE DE CORÉE			
20.11.2006	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la République populaire démocratique de Corée	art. 15	2006/795/PESC L 322 (22.11.2006)
SECURITE			
10.04.2006	Conclusion de l'accord entre l'UE et la Croatie sur les procédures de sécurité pour l'échange d'informations classifiées	art. 24, art. 38	2006/317/PESC L 116 (29.04.2006)

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.
SOUDAN			
17.10.2006	Mise en œuvre de l'action commune 2005/557/PESC concernant l'action de soutien civilo-militaire de l'Union européenne à la mission de l'Union africaine dans la région soudanaise du Darfour	art. 8(1), art. 23(2)	2006/725/PESC L 296 (26.10.2006)
05.07.2006	Renouvellement et révision du mandat du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Soudan	art. 14, art. 18 § 5, art. 23(2)	2006/468/PESC L 184 (06.07.2006)
01.06.2006	Mise en œuvre la position commune 2005/411/PESC concernant l'adoption de mesures restrictives à l'encontre du Soudan	art. 23 § 2; position commune 2004/411/PESC art. 6	2006/386/PESC L 148 (02.06.2006)
ZIMBABWE			
30.01.2006	Renouvellement des mesures restrictives	art. 15	2006/51/PESC L 26 (31.01.2006)