



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 April 2008

8617/08

**PESC 453
FIN 155
PE 131**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council

To : COREPER/Council

No. prev. doc. : 6992/1/07 REV 1 PESC 243 FIN 99 PE 59

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) - **2007**

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 3, 7, 10, 14 and 17 April 2008 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 to 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 OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 May 2008

**8617/08
COR 1**

**PESC 453
FIN 155
PE 131**

CORRIGENDUM TO THE "I/A" ITEM NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
To : COREPER/Council
No. prev. doc. : 6992/1/07 REV 1 PESC 243 FIN 99 PE 59

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) - **2007**

1) Page 27, paragraph 56, fourth sentence should read as follows:

"In December 2007 the **Commission** presented another communication entitled ..."

2) Page 29, footnote 27 should read as follows:

"The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the negotiation mandate: enhanced EC-Ukraine agreement on 12 **July** 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee."

3) Page 72, paragraph 250 should read as follows:

On 19 November 2007 the EU adopted stronger sanctions with Common Position 2007/750/CFSP, which explicitly targets the exploitation of natural resources that profit the authorities, ..."

**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**

- 2007 -

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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 1998² and has been reporting annually since then. Each year the European Parliament adopts a Resolution on the latest annual report, giving general comments and specific recommendations on its content.³

This report covers the year 2007 and also looks at perspectives for future action in accordance with the practice followed since the 1999 report. The 2007 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 (such as lists of declarations, demarches and political dialogue meetings) are published once a year in a separate document. The information covering 2007 is given in document 6084/08.

² 7087/98 PESC 66 PE 23.

³ The EP's Resolution in reaction to the CFSP report 2005 of the Council was adopted on 23 May 2007 and is contained in P6_TA(2007)0205.

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

The financial statements relating 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 Commission website on CFSP financing (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/cfsp/fin/index.htm)⁴ 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).

⁴ 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 programmes. 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 request for transparency in the field of CFSP.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

2007 started with the accession of two New Member States to the European Union, closely followed by the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, and ended with the signing of the Lisbon Treaty. It was another crucial year for the EU and its CFSP. The EU remained dynamically engaged in foreign and security policy, including through an active role in crisis management and conflict prevention, adding value, coherence and effectiveness to multilateral efforts to promote stability, security and peace in the world. The European Security Strategy remained a valid source of guidance for the further development and implementation of the CFSP. In December 2007, the European Council invited the Secretary General/High Representative (SG/HR), in full association with the Commission and in close cooperation with the Member States, to examine the implementation of the Strategy with a view to proposing elements to improve implementation and, as appropriate, elements to complement it, for adoption by the European Council in December 2008.

In 2007, nine different ESDP missions were operational across three continents, providing "key enablers" for peace, stability and security, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Palestinian Territories and Bosnia and Herzegovina. EU engagement in the Western Balkans, the Southern Caucasus, the Middle East, Sudan and Afghanistan demonstrated the EU's willingness to assist in resolving and preventing conflicts worldwide.

The EU continued to pursue its objectives primarily through effective multilateralism, in close cooperation with different multilateral organisations, principally the UN, NATO, the 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 the Islamic Conference, the Gulf Cooperation Council, ECOWAS, the Organization of American States and MERCOSUR, as well as with many other partners and non-state actors.

The EU's cooperation with its partners was further strengthened in 2007. EU-US cooperation covered the full spectrum of international issues, from the Middle East, Africa and the Western Balkans, including Kosovo, to non-proliferation and the fight against terrorism, confirming the vital character of the transatlantic partnership.

The EU also continued to work closely with its other key strategic partners: Canada, India, Japan, China, and Russia. Its ties with countries of the Eastern and Southern neighbourhood were further strengthened. The Joint EU/Africa Strategy and the EU strategy on Central Asia, both adopted in 2007, have already brought additional coherence and visibility to EU initiatives and programmes in these regions.

The Joint EU/Africa Strategy, as well as its Action Plan, adopted at the EU/Africa Summit in December 2007, established a new approach consisting of a political partnership between equals and introduced ways of jointly addressing global challenges that affect both continents.

Reinforcement of the African Peacekeeping capabilities by the EU contributes to the creation of a continental African Peace and Security Architecture, including the establishment of the Africa Standby Force.

Following the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1778, the EU decided to take action by further planning a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR Tchad/RCA⁵) in the framework of the ESDP. This neutral, multinational and independent operation is to take place in full coordination with the UN and in consultation with African partners. Its deployment has been welcomed by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic.

Following an initial joint Council-Commission information-gathering mission to Guinea Bissau (May 2007), consideration was given to a possible option for an ESDP advice and assistance mission in support of the national Security Sector Reform process. According to current planning the mission should be deployed in the first half of 2008⁶.

In 2007 the EU continued its preparations for a civilian ESDP Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo. The Council has amended the mandate of the EU Planning Team for Kosovo and extended it until 14 June 2008⁷. Since the Council's adoption of a crisis management concept for the ESDP mission in Kosovo in 2006, planning has advanced with the development of a draft concept of operations for the EU's hitherto largest civilian ESDP mission. The EULEX KOSOVO mission was launched on 15 February 2008.

⁵ Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP of 15 October 2007.

⁶ Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP of 12 February 2008.

⁷ Joint Action 2008/228/CFSP of 17 March 2008.

Throughout 2007 civilian-military coordination in EU crisis management in general continued to advance. Work has started on a revision by 2008 of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept bearing in mind the EU's level of ambition as laid down in the Headline Goal 2010 process.

It will take due account of the Battlegroup Concept, which since 1 January 2007 has been realised by having two Battlegroups on stand-by each semester on a permanent basis, and the ongoing work on the Maritime Rapid Response and the Air Rapid Response Concepts agreed in 2007.

The Final Report on Civilian Headline Goal 2008, the forward-looking Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and a Civilian ESDP capability planning process were adopted by EU Ministers at the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference on 19 November 2007.

In 2007 the EU has also continued to fulfil its responsibilities by addressing global security challenges. An enhanced contribution by the EU to the non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, the fight against terrorism, radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism, the improvement of human rights and good governance worldwide, the countering of illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, and the curbing of organised crime - all these clearly serve the interests of the EU and its citizens.

Energy security, climate change and the scarcity of resources will continue to grow in importance within the CFSP context. Issues relating to governance, stability and good neighbourly relations of States rich in energy resources have an impact on energy security and will be further addressed by the EU as well as the challenges posed by the increasing use of non-traditional energy sources, including bio fuels, and of nuclear energy. A joint report by the SG/HR and the Commission, addressing the challenging impact of climate change on international security, is expected in spring 2008.

The EU supports the principles of the Alliance of Civilisations and recognizes the efforts of UN High Representative Sampaio to put into practice the implementation plan as a follow-up to the recommendations of the report by the Alliance's High Level Group. Improved inter-cultural dialogue and understanding will also remain a key priority for the EU in 2008 - designated European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Early warning and subsequent early action are at the heart of the EU's conflict prevention. In 2007 the EU strengthened its cross-pillar approach to conflict prevention by:

- addressing the security-development nexus and fragile states;
- improving the link between early warning and early action;
- strengthening capacity building in Member States;
- stepping-up cooperation with international partners, including non-state actors;
- the Commission's use of the Stability Instrument to support CFSP objectives.

To enhance further its contribution to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of an increasingly globalised and complex world, the EU must make further efforts to promote a holistic culture of conflict prevention in 2008.

To fulfil its international obligations, while remaining ambitious, effective and efficient, EU action within the CFSP should rely on good collaboration between its institutions and the Member States.

CHAPTER 1 - WESTERN BALKANS

1. Horizontal issues

1. In 2007, the EU continued to consolidate the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and the 2003 Thessaloniki Agenda, which confirmed the European perspective for the countries of the Western Balkans region⁸. In December 2007 the European Council reaffirmed that the future of the Western Balkans lies within the European Union.
2. On 12 February 2007, the EU - Western Balkans Forum at Foreign Minister level confirmed the European perspective of the region and took stock of relations between the EU and the Western Balkan States following the 2006 Commission Communication "The Western Balkans on the road to the EU: Consolidating stability and raising prosperity". On 4/5 October 2007, EU and Western Balkans Interior and Justice Ministers met in Brdo, Slovenia, to discuss issues of common concern such as judicial cooperation, integrated border management and trans-border crime.
3. Western Balkans Ministers signed Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements⁹ on 18 September 2007 in Brussels as an important step in promoting people-to-people contacts. The thorough implementation of those agreements, which the Council concluded in late November on behalf of the European Community, is an important element and should be taken into account in the dialogue on gradual visa liberalisation.
4. In December, the Council welcomed the conclusion of visa facilitation and readmission agreements between the European Union and four Western Balkan countries (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as the visa facilitation agreement with Albania.

⁸ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Kosovo in terms of UNSCR 1244, Montenegro, Serbia.

⁹ They entered into force on 1 January 2008 except for the readmission agreement with Albania which has been in force since 1 May 2006.

As regards visa facilitation, the Council invited the Commission further to explore possibilities for promoting people-to-people contacts. The Council also expressed its readiness to hold discussions during the first half of 2008 on these issues, on the basis of the Commission's communication, and Member States' contributions.

5. The reform process in the Western Balkan countries continued allowing the signing of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with Montenegro on 15 October 2007. Montenegro thus became the fourth country after Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Albania to sign such an agreement with the EU. In addition, SAA were initialled with Serbia on 7 November and with Bosnia and Herzegovina on 4 December 2007, and further progress towards their completion is expected in 2008, provided the necessary conditions are met.
6. In its Enlargement package, presented on 6 November 2007, the Commission recalled the overall positive achievements of recent years, but noticed uneven progress in 2007. The Commission also recalled the remaining challenges. The Council of the EU concluded on 10 December 2007 that those achievements now needed to be built on to make the Stabilisation and Association Process irreversible. In line with the enlargement strategy agreed by the December 2006 European Council, the Council also welcomed the Commission's communication on the enlargement strategy and main challenges 2007-2008 and took good note of the analysis and recommendations in it. It considered that the challenges faced by the countries of the region warranted greater focus on key reforms relating to state-building, the rule of law, reconciliation, administrative and judicial reform and the fight against corruption and organised crime. Strong progress on those issues, hand-in-hand with sustainable economic and social development, will enable the countries of the region to move forward.
7. The Council recalled the importance of regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations and of the need to find mutually acceptable solutions on outstanding issues with neighbouring countries.

8. On 22 January 2007 the Council adopted a European Partnership with Montenegro. On 20 December 2007 the texts on European partnerships with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, including Kosovo under UNSC Resolution 1244, as well as on an Accession Partnership with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) were agreed. The partnerships identify short-term and medium-term priorities for the countries of the Western Balkans.
9. As for the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Council renewed the mandate of the Coordinator of the Stability Pact until June 2008. By that time the Pact will end and be succeeded by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)¹⁰, thereby increasing regional ownership, but continuing the multitude of initiatives and task forces of the Stability Pact.
10. Much progress was made in the transition, including the adoption of Rules of Procedure and the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding. The Regional Table meeting on 11 May 2007 in Zagreb endorsed the new Council and appointed Mr Hido Bišćević as its Secretary General. The RCC secretariat will be located in Sarajevo with a small liaison office in Brussels.
11. As one of the Stability Pact's most visible initiatives, the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA), signed in Bucharest on 19 December 2006, entered into force on 23 August 2007. The agreement represents a major step forward in regional co-operation and reconciliation and could enhance mutual economic ties.
12. In 2007, the EU continued to support the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), addressing past human right violations. The Council extended its restrictive measures in support of the effective implementation of the mandate of the ICTY (these measures are aimed at imposing an assets freeze on indicted fugitives and travel bans on persons assisting ICTY indictees to evade justice). The condition of cooperation with the ICTY remained a key element of the EU's policy towards the countries in the region.

¹⁰ The Board of the Regional Cooperation Council met twice in 2007. The RCC will have its first full meeting with inauguration on the Regional table meeting on 27 February 2008 in Sofia.

13. Throughout 2007 the various offices of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in the countries of the Western Balkans closed down, following the decision by the Council that the EUMM would cease its activities by the end of 2007.

Croatia

14. The EU commended Croatia for the overall progress it continued to make, which allowed the country to enter an increasingly demanding stage, and noted that the accession negotiations were on the right track. The EU has continued to underline to Croatia that progress in the accession negotiations will depend on the fulfilment of conditionality, including benchmarks for opening and closing chapters, obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, as well as the implementation of the Accession Partnership. Increased attention must be given to transposing further and implementing effectively the *acquis*, in order to be able to meet the obligations of membership in good time, particularly in judicial and administrative reforms, the fight against corruption, minority rights and refugee return. Full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) as well as further improvement in the prosecution and trial of war crimes in Croatia itself must continue.
15. Furthermore it is also essential that Croatia continues its efforts towards good neighbourly relations, including work to find satisfactory solutions to pending bilateral issues with neighbouring countries, especially as regards border issues. In that regard, the Council called on Croatia in December 2007 to respect fully the 4 June 2004 agreement concerning the Ecological and Fisheries Protection Zone referred to in the June 2004 European Council conclusions and the Negotiating Framework, and not to apply any aspect of the Zone to EU Member States until a common agreement in the EU spirit was found.¹¹

¹¹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the 2006 Progress report on Croatia on 25 July 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

16. In February, the Council extended the Erwan Fouéré's mandate as EUSR for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) until 29 February 2008.¹² Since 1 November 2005 Mr Fouéré exercises both the functions of EUSR and of Head of the Commission Delegation.
17. The main activities of the EUSR throughout 2007 have been focused on offering advice and facilitating 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 Council also extended its measures aimed at extremists in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) who hinder the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement.
18. Building on his work in 2007, the main challenges for the EUSR during 2008 will be to support the country in intensifying its EU-integration efforts, and to offer advice and facilitation in the political process. Whereas dialogue between the Prime Minister and the President has improved, the EUSR will continue to foster constructive dialogue between the political parties with a view to deepening both the adoption and the implementation of EU relevant legislation. The EUSR will also promote the full and effective implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. In addition, he will continue to ensure full synchronisation of the EUSR- and EC-led activities in the country.¹³
19. At its meeting on 10 December 2007, the Council (GAERC) encouraged all political parties to deepen political dialogue and cooperation, inter alia on inter-ethnic relations, in order to move ahead in the accession process. It called for the acceleration of the pace of reforms in key areas such as judicial and public administration reform, implementation of the police reform and the fight against corruption, as well as in addressing unemployment and enhancing the general business environment.

¹² Joint Action 2007/109/CFSP, OJ L 46, 16.2.2007, p. 68.

¹³ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the 2006 Progress report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 12 September 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

However, the Council noted that there had still been no solution to the name issue. It called on the Government to make renewed efforts, with a constructive approach, to find a negotiated and mutually acceptable solution on the name issue with Greece, under the auspices of the UN, thereby contributing to regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

EUSR Bosnia and Herzegovina

20. The Council extended Mr Christian Schwarz-Schilling's mandate as EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 30 June 2007.¹⁴

21. In line with his responsibilities under Article 2 and 3 of Joint Action 2007/87/CFSP, the EUSR continued to promote the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the priorities within the Stabilisation and Association Process, with the aim of a stable, viable, peaceful and multiethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina, cooperating peacefully with its neighbours and irreversibly on track towards EU membership. The EUSR continued to coordinate and ensure the coherence of the EU presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to provide 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.

22. On 18 June 2007, the Council appointed Miroslav Lajčak as the new EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina¹⁵. On 19 November 2007, the Council amended the mandate of the EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to comply with the new recommendations aimed at achieving optimal EU coordination on the ground (notably command and control structure).¹⁶

¹⁴ Joint Action 2007/87/CFSP of 7 February 2007.

¹⁵ Council Decision 2007/427/CFSP of 18 June 2007.

¹⁶ Joint Action 2007/748/CFSP of 19 November 2007.

EUFOR Althea

23. Despite the difficult political environment, the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable. Operation ALTHEA contributed to this by providing reassurance and remaining ready to respond to security challenges throughout the country. The Council reviewed the operation on 10 December 2007 and stressed that the EU remained actively committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including through Operation ALTHEA. The Council also agreed that, as part of the EU's overall engagement in the country, the EU-led military presence would remain there for as long as necessary.

EUPM

24. The Mission operated with a refocused mandate until 31 December 2007¹⁷, with an emphasis on operational support for the fight against organised crime by domestic authorities and assistance to police reform. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the mandate was EUR 12.150.000. In 2007 all 27 EU Member States, together with six non-EU contributing States, participated in the Mission comprising around 414 staff (166 international police officers, 29 international civilian experts and 219 national staff).
25. EUPM supported the Police Restructuring process in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the Head of Mission's membership of the Directorate for Police Restructuring Implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (DIPR) Steering Board. The adoption of the Mostar Declaration and the Sarajevo Action Plan in December 2007 paved the way for the future implementation of police reform at State level, while restructuring of the police services at regional and local level remains subject to an overall agreement on constitutional reforms.
26. EUPM continued to follow its co-location methodology which had been reviewed and re-organised. Since October 2006 EUPM has fully assumed the lead in the co-ordination of the policing aspects of the ESDP efforts in the fight against organised crime. It assisted local authorities in planning and conducting major- and organised-crime investigations.

¹⁷ OJ L 307, 25.11.2005, p. 55.

In this context, EUPM's Criminal Justice Interface Unit (CJIU) also identified and addressed deficiencies in the area of police and prosecutorial cooperation and focuses on enhancing both, general and case-specific cooperation, thus contributing to strengthening the integrity of the criminal justice system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

27. EUPM's mandate has been extended for a two years follow-on mission until 31 December 2009.

Reinforced EU engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina

28. In February 2007, the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) Steering Board Political Directors reviewed the plan for the closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR). Taking into account the overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, the PIC decided to postpone such a decision for one year (i. e. until the February 2008 PIC meeting). Because of that, further reinforcements of the EU presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, notably the enlarged EUSR office, have been put on hold and will be examined in the light of further OHR-linked developments.

Political situation and future perspective

29. In October 2006 there were general elections, but the State government was not formed until February 2007. In the same month, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling in the suit filed in 1993 by Bosnia and Herzegovina against the former Serbia and Montenegro (FRY) started to define domestic politics. Throughout 2007 there was a noticeable slow-down in the implementation of the reform agenda, while the political atmosphere deteriorated and was filled with tough nationalist rhetoric.
30. After the failure to agree on police reform in September and after the negative local response to measures enacted by the High Representative (19 October measures to improve functioning of the Bosnia and Herzegovina State institutions), the six major party leaders managed to break a serious political deadlock with the so-called Mostar Declaration (28 October), followed by the Sarajevo Action Plan and Laktasi Agreement (with substantial help from the international community). The Commission initialled the text of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) on 4 December.

However, significant progress remains necessary on four key conditions, i. e. police reform, public broadcasting reform, public administration reform and full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), in order to sign an SAA with the EU.

31. Progress with constitutional reform is also encouraged so as to create more functional state structures that would more easily meet European standards. This remains an imperative for Bosnia and Herzegovina for both political and functional reasons.

Serbia

32. Following the adoption of a new Constitution as a consequence of the break-up of the State union of Serbia and Montenegro, Serbia held general elections on 21 January 2007. The election results indicated a clear majority for the pro-EU and reform-orientated political parties. Immediately after the elections the Council called for the speedy formation of a government committed to Serbia's European course and prepared to tackle the challenges ahead including co-operation with the ICTY and the ongoing Kosovo status process. Following the elections, the EU Troika (Presidency, SG/HR and the Commissioner for Enlargement, accompanied by the incoming Presidency) engaged in a series of political dialogue meetings with Serbia at both ministerial and political directors level.
33. On 26 January the political directors troika went to Belgrade to prepare the ground for a ministerial troika in Belgrade on 7 February. The Troika called upon the political leaders in Serbia quickly to form a government committed to reform and a European future. The February Council also welcomed the Commission's readiness to resume negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with a new government in Belgrade, provided it shows clear commitment and takes concrete and effective action for full cooperation with the ICTY. The EU continued throughout the spring to send the same encouraging messages to Belgrade. When the government was finally established on 15 May, it immediately undertook concrete actions regarding co-operation with the ICTY. That enabled the Commission to resume negotiations on the SAA with Serbia. In its June conclusions the Council welcomed those facts.

The Council recalled that the pace and conclusion of the negotiations on the text of the SAA would in particular depend on Serbia's progress in developing the necessary legislative framework and administrative capacity to implement its obligations under the Agreement, and on full co-operation with the ICTY. In November the Commission initialled the text of the SAA and proposed that the Council sign and conclude it subject to the condition that Serbia co-operate fully with the ICTY. The December 2007 European Council expressed the view that with its strong administrative capacity, Serbia could speed up its progress towards the EU, inter alia being granted candidate status, once the conditions were fulfilled. In January 2008 the Council (GAERC) invited Serbia to sign an interim Political Agreement on Cooperation as a clear sign of the EU's commitment to Serbia's EU perspective. It also decided to set up a Task Force to examine ways of delivering rapid progress regarding the approach of Serbia to the EU.¹⁸

34. The Council continues to support the implementation of the mandate of the ICTY through its two Common Positions on a visa ban list and the freezing of the assets of people supporting indictees at large.
35. Throughout 2007 the Council has also been contributing to the mediation of a negotiated settlement between Belgrade and Pristina regarding Kosovo status, most notably as a member of the EU-US-Russia Troika.

Kosovo¹⁹

36. During 2007 the Council continued to work on an enhanced role for the EU in Kosovo.²⁰
37. In February the Council repeated its full support for the UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and his efforts. It considered that the proposals presented by him to the two parties provided comprehensive arrangements designed to promote a multi-ethnic and democratic society in Kosovo based on the rule of law.

¹⁸ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on EU-Serbia relations on 25 October 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

¹⁹ Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999.

²⁰ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the future of Kosovo and the role of the EU on 29 March 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Council welcomed Mr Ahtisaari's intention of engaging the parties in a period of intensive consultations and strongly urged both Belgrade and Pristina to participate actively and constructively. The Council also reiterated the EU's readiness to play a significant role in the implementation of the status settlement and decided to intensify the preparations for a future EU and international presence in Kosovo.

38. On 27 March the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/203/CFSP extending the mandate of the ICM/EUSR Preparation Team until 31 July 2007.
39. On 14 May the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/334/CFSP amending and extending the mandate of the EU Planning Team 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 mandate was extended in principle until 1 September, subject to a review by the Council by 15 July.
40. In June the Council confirmed its support for UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari, and reiterated its view that his comprehensive proposal submitted by the UNSG to the UNSC on 26 March provided the basis for the settlement of the Kosovo issue by means of a new Resolution of the UNSC. The Council also underlined the necessity of rapidly finding a solution to the Kosovo status issue and reaffirmed its conviction that resolving the pending status of Kosovo constituted a *sui generis* case that did not set any precedent.
41. On 16 July the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/517/CFSP extending and amending the Joint Action on the establishment of an ICM/EUSR Preparation Team. The Team was renamed ICO/EUSR Preparation Team.
42. The mandate of the Preparation Team was amended to include "working with the Kosovo authorities, UNMIK and other key international partners in planning for the transition of authority from UNMIK and in preparing for the implementation of the status settlement". The mandate of the Preparation Team was extended until 30 November or until thirty days after the adoption of a new UNSC Resolution replacing UNSCR 1244, if such a resolution were to be adopted before 1 November.

43. On 17 July the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/520/CFSP amending and extending the Joint Action establishing the EUPT. The Council extended the mandate of the EUPT until 30 November and approved the continuation of recruiting and training personnel, as necessary.
44. In September, at its informal (Gymnich) meeting, the Council mandated officials to prepare for a situation in which the Serbs and the Kosovars did not reach an agreed settlement. The Council welcomed the efforts that the EU/US/Russia Troika was undertaking and particularly the contribution of the EU representative in the Troika, Ambassador Ischinger.
45. In October the Council expressed its full support for the Troika process and for the EU representative in it. It welcomed the intense pace of activity and the constructive atmosphere of the first round of talks. The Council urged both parties to engage in the remaining negotiations in a spirit of compromise and to make every effort to secure a negotiated settlement of the status of Kosovo.
46. In November the Council welcomed the fact that elections in Kosovo had taken place in an orderly and peaceful manner. It regretted the low turnout, the low participation by the Kosovo Serb community and Belgrade's call for a boycott. Following a briefing by Ambassador Ischinger, the Council reaffirmed its full support for the Troika with a view to the imminent conclusion of the Troika process on 10 December. The Council confirmed once more that the EU stood ready to play a significant role in Kosovo in the future and was preparing accordingly.
47. On 19 November the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/744/CFSP amending and extending Joint Action 2006/623/CFSP establishing the ICO/EUSR Preparation Team. The mandate of the Preparation Team was extended until 30 March 2008 or thirty days after the appointment of an ICR/EUSR, if that were to occur before 1 March.

48. On 29 November the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/778/CFSP amending and extending Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP on the establishment of the EU Planning Team. The Council approved the identification of needs for a possible future EU crisis management operation and the submission of proposals regarding procurement for required equipment, services and premises. It also approved the launching of tender procedures and the awarding of contracts on the above. The mandate of the EUPT was extended until 31 March 2008.
49. In December the European Council noted the conclusion of the Troika process and the final report. It emphasised that the negotiated process facilitated by the Troika had been exhausted and in that context deeply regretted that the two parties had been unable to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. The Council stressed the need to move forward towards a Kosovo settlement, which was essential for regional stability. It underlined the readiness of the EU to play a leading role in strengthening stability in the region and in implementing a settlement defining Kosovo's status. The Council also expressed the EU's readiness to assist Kosovo in the path towards sustainable stability, inter alia by an ESDP mission and a contribution to an international civilian office as part of the international presence.
50. In January 2008, as a follow-up to the European Council conclusions, work intensified in the preparations for deployment of the EU ESDP mission and the International Civilian mission. On 4 February 2008 the Council adopted a Joint Action on the European Union Rule of Law mission in Kosovo (EULEX KOSOVO) as well as a Joint Action appointing Mr Pieter Feith as EUSR for Kosovo. In addition, the Operational Plan of EULEX KOSOVO was adopted on 15 February, thereby signalling the launch of the ESDP mission.

Albania

51. Following the EU's and Albania's signing of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the accompanying Interim Agreement in 2006, fourteen Member States finalized their national procedures of ratification by the end of 2007.

52. In July, the Council adopted conclusions welcoming the conclusion of the presidential electoral process in the Albanian Parliament in accordance with the Constitution, and the election of Bamir Topi as new President. The Council reiterated its support for Albania's European perspective, subject to fulfillment of the EU criteria, and encouraged all political forces to work together in moving forward with the reforms needed. The Council also underlined the importance of Albania's continued constructive role in the region.
53. In 2008, the Council will continue to follow developments in the country and its vicinity. Within the country, the preparation for the general elections in 2009, in all its aspects, and on the basis of constructive dialogue across the political spectrum (election code reform, civil registries, ID cards, biometric passports) will be one of several important elements which the Council will assess in the autumn, on the basis of the Commission progress report, in relation to progress towards meeting the EU's conditions for further progress towards the EU.

Montenegro

54. On 22 January the annual EU-Montenegro Political Dialogue troika meeting was held at ministerial level in Brussels.
55. On 15 October the EU signed a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Montenegro. The Council welcomed the signature of the agreement as an important step on the country's path towards the EU and called upon Montenegro to establish a sustained and effective track record in implementing the Agreement, enhance its administrative capacity and push ahead with reforms on, inter alia, state-building, rule of law, reconciliation, administrative and judicial reform and the fight against corruption and organised crime. In addition, it will also be important for Montenegro to implement the new Constitution, adopted in October 2007 in line with European standards and to continue efforts to broaden consensus on basic features of state building.²¹

²¹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Montenegro on 13 December 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

CHAPTER 2 - EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Horizontal issues

56. The implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) continued; the Council examined the ideas included in a Commission communication of December 2006, which aimed at strengthening the ENP. Those ideas resulted in a progress report presented by the Presidency to the Council (GAERC) in June 2007²². The latter welcomed the progress made²³. In December 2007 the Council presented another communication entitled "A Strong European Neighbourhood Policy"²⁴, which summed up the efforts undertaken since the previous communication. The European Council of December 2007 invited the upcoming Presidencies to take that work forward in order to develop both the eastern and southern dimensions in bilateral and multilateral formats on the basis of the relevant Commission communications and proposals²⁵.

Russia

57. Throughout the year, the EU and Russia maintained their particularly intensive political dialogue, at both political and expert level. The areas of cooperation extended from geographical areas (in particular the Middle East and the Balkans) to various horizontal issues, such as Energy and Climate Change, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, crisis management and terrorism, notably through the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, as well as to cooperation in various international organisations (in particular the UN and OSCE). The EU gave special priority to countries in the common neighbourhood of Russia and the enlarged EU. Consultations on those matters continued. There is however still room for further progress on substance. Numerous contacts took place between the EUSRs for Moldova, the South Caucasus and Central Asia and the Russian authorities.

²² See 10874/07.

²³ Council conclusions of 18 June 2007.

²⁴ See 16493/07.

²⁵ Presidency Conclusions of the European Council of 14 December 2007, paragraph 72.

58. In June 2007 the EU-Russia Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force. Progress has been made in the implementation of both agreements, but a number of questions regarding the Readmission Agreements remained unsolved. EU-Russia visa dialogue to examine conditions for visa-free travel as a long term perspective started in Moscow on 12-13 December 2007.
59. Two meetings at summit level took place in 2007. The nineteenth EU-Russia Summit²⁶ in Samara (Russia) on 18 May and the twentieth EU-Russia Summit in Mafra (Portugal) on 26 October reviewed the ongoing work on practical implementation of the four Common Spaces, as well as the future perspectives for EU-Russia relations, in particular Russia's WTO accession and negotiations on a new EU-Russia Agreement. This Agreement will further enhance and promote the strategic relations of the two sides in all fields, including energy. In particular, the EU and Russia agreed to establish an early warning mechanism to be activated in case major supply or demand disruptions might arise. Both summits also addressed key international issues, such as Kosovo, the Middle East and Iran.
60. Several meetings at Ministerial level also took place in 2007. In the field of the CFSP, two Foreign Ministers' Troikas were held on 5 February in Moscow and on 23 April in Luxembourg respectively. A meeting of the Foreign Ministers of all 27 Member States with Russia took place in the margins of the UN General Assembly on 27 September in New York. A meeting of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council at Foreign Ministers' level also took place on 10 December in Brussels.
61. The sixth and seventh rounds of EU-Russia consultations on human rights were held on 3 May in Berlin and 5 October 2007 in Brussels. The EU raised specific concerns about the human rights situation in Russia, notably in relation to the situation in Chechnya, freedom of opinion and assembly (in particular in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in December 2007 and the presidential elections in March 2008), media freedom, the situation of NGOs and civil society and respect for the rule of law.

²⁶ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU-Russia Summits on 10 May and 14 November 2007.

In October, the two sides also more specifically discussed the issues of combating torture and maltreatment, as well as women's rights.

62. During 2007, the EU Presidency issued several CFSP statements concerning Russia, in particular on the Litvinenko murder case, the parliamentary elections on 2 December, and the closure of the regional offices of the British Council in Russia.

Ukraine

63. There has been good progress in EU-Ukraine relations. Negotiations on the New Enhanced Agreement (NEA) started on 5 March 2007 and six subsequent negotiation rounds were held by the end of January 2008. The negotiations have been conducted in a constructive and positive atmosphere, with both sides showing readiness to advance quickly. The New Enhanced Agreement will bring Ukraine substantially closer to the EU, in particular through closer political and sectoral cooperation, as well as the establishment of a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Area (FTA), which will be one core element.²⁷
64. Another important move in EU-Ukraine relations was the readmission and visa facilitation agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, signed in June 2007 and concluded, following consultation of the EP, in November 2007.
65. Ukraine's accession to WTO was a precondition for starting negotiations on the FTA.
66. 2007 was a testing year for Ukraine's fragile democracy. Power struggles between key political players and lack of clarity of the Constitution as regards the division of power led to the dissolution of Parliament in April. Early parliamentary elections were held in September. According to the OSCE, the elections were conducted "mostly in line with international commitments and standards for democratic elections". Showing the viability of Ukraine's democracy, the election outcome led to a considerable change in the composition of Parliament and, on that basis, the formation of a new governing coalition.

²⁷ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the negotiation mandate: enhanced EC-Ukraine agreement on 12 December 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The government of Prime Minister Mrs Yulia Tymoshenko took office in December, relying on the narrowest possible majority in the Parliament. On the whole, the early elections were a positive step towards the consolidation of democracy in Ukraine.

67. In spite of domestic instability, Ukraine continued to make good progress in implementing the EU-Ukraine Joint Action Plan adopted in February 2005 although the pace of the reform process has slowed down. It needs to continue efforts to strengthen further the democratic institutions and the rule of law, ensure the independence of the judiciary, fight corruption and introduce the necessary economic and administrative reforms to improve the investment climate.
68. The main priorities of EU-Ukraine relations for 2008 are to continue the implementation of the Joint Action Plan and the negotiation of the New Enhanced Agreement.
69. Domestically, the key challenge for Ukraine is to reform the Constitution so as to establish a clear division of power and checks-and-balances. This is essential if political stability is to be ensured, since the lack of clarity in the current Constitution is a major reason for the series of crises that Ukraine has been through. A renewed constitution has to be agreed upon by all major political forces, taking into account the recommendations of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.
70. The EU actively promoted the Black Sea Synergy Initiative. To launch that Initiative, a Black Sea Synergy Ministerial Meeting was held in February 2008 in Kyiv with the participation of the EU.²⁸

Belarus

71. The EU's policy on Belarus remains two-track: tough on those responsible for electoral abuse and crack-downs on democratisation, but engaging with the country to support efforts to build the pre-conditions for democratisation.

²⁸ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on a Black Sea Regional Policy Approach on 17 January 2008 on the basis of a report from the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2007.

The restrictive measures (visaban and assets freeze) were extended against those responsible for abuse and misconduct during the presidential elections and in its aftermath and against those responsible for the disappearance of four well-known persons in Belarus between 1999-2000 and those who were opposed to an independent investigation of those crimes.²⁹

A further review is planned before April 2008.

72. The restrictive measures were balanced by a proactive policy of engagement, aimed at building the pre-conditions for democratisation. 2007 saw a series of visits to Minsk by senior officials, including the Policy Unit Director of the General Secretariat of the Council, Mrs Helga Schmid, whose visit in March 2007 was the highest-level EU visit to the country in years. She met with representatives of key NGOs, opposition figures, Deputy Foreign Minister Voronetski and Foreign Minister Martynov; she stressed the EU's willingness to engage with Belarus, but also made it clear that the EU would not compromise on its value base and called for the release of all political prisoners. The same messages were passed on at her visit to Minsk in November 2007, where she also acknowledged the cautiously positive steps taken by the authorities in the course of the year: the release of some prisoners, the green light given to the opening of an EC Delegation in Minsk (the establishment agreement was initialled on 5 December 2007) and the fact that the opposition congress in May had been allowed to take place.
73. On 21 June 2007, the Council Regulation of 20 December 2006 temporarily withdrawing access to the EU's generalised system of preferences (GSP) from Belarus³⁰ because of non-compliance with ILO commitments was enforced as the situation in Belarus had not improved.
74. The situation inside Belarus was characterised by a large number of new arrests and trials, increasingly targeting youth activists and resulting mainly in fines or in some days of imprisonment. Although the authorities had allowed some visible events organised by the opposition to take place (the "European March" of 14 October and the "Social March" of 4 November), those events were again preceded by a wave of arrests of activists, which the EU openly deplored.

²⁹ Council Common Position 2007/173/CFSP (OJ L 79, 20.3.2007, p. 40).

³⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 1933/2006 (OJ L 405, 30.12.2006, p. 35).

75. Belarus will hold parliamentary elections in 2008. According to the law, polling must take place before October. It remains to be seen whether promised changes to the electoral code will be made. Belarus also needs to be encouraged to invite a full OSCE/ODIHR-led election observation mission.
76. Visa issues will remain high on the agenda in EU-Belarus relations. In June 2007, in its Conclusions on extension of the Global Approach to Migration to the neighbouring Eastern and South-Eastern regions, the Council (GAERC) endorsed the priority actions, including the EU – Belarus expert level dialogue on migration.

Republic of Moldova

77. There was an overall positive dynamism in relations between the EU and Republic of Moldova. The Republic of Moldova continued to implement the ENP Action Plan, adopted in February 2005. In order to exploit fully the Action Plan's reform potential, the EU and the Republic of Moldova agreed to keep it in place after February 2008 as an instrument for the strengthening of reforms and EU-Moldova relations. Other important steps in EU-Moldova relations were the opening of a Common Visa Application Centre in Chisinau in April 2007, the entry into force of Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements on 1 January 2008, and the adoption of autonomous trade preferences for Moldovan imports into the EU that entered into force on 1 March 2008.
78. In February, the Council adopted a Common Position extending and amending sanctions against those members of the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova who were responsible for preventing progress towards a settlement of the Transnistria conflict as well as against those persons responsible for conceiving and implementing the intimidation campaign and closing of Latin script Moldovan schools in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova³¹.
79. The EUSR Kálmán Mizsei took office on 1 March. The EUSR has played a very active role in the region, making an important contribution to the EU's relations with the Republic of Moldova and in particular efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the Transnistria conflict.

³¹ Council Common Position 2007/121/CFSP of 19 February 2007, OJ L 51/31.

He has held consultations with all key players, including the authorities of Republic of Moldova and the Transnistrian region, Russia, Ukraine and the OSCE, which are mediators in the conflict, and the US, which is an observer in the settlement process. One of the key topics of those consultations was the implementation of confidence-building initiatives proposed by Moldova's President Voronin in early October. In the framework of the so-called 5+2 negotiations, an informal meeting was held in late October in Odessa, where the EUSR represented the EU, accompanied by the Commission.

80. The EUSR addressed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament in September. He has also been in close contact with the Head of the Moldova Delegation and held meetings with several MEPs.
81. The EUSR participated in three Advisory Board Meetings of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), which has been in place since December 2005, managed by the Commission and financed by the EC. The mandate of the EUBAM was extended for two further years from 1 December 2007. The EUSR has been in frequent and close contact with the Head of EUBAM, General Banfi, who is “double-hatted” and acts at the same time as Senior Political Advisor to the EUSR. A member of the EUSR team is based in the EUBAM Headquarters in Odessa.
82. The EUSR is also supported by two political advisors based in Chisinau and an advisor based in Kyiv, all seconded by Member States.
83. EUBAM and the EUSR continued to monitor the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Customs signed by Moldovan and Ukrainian Prime Ministers in December 2005. On the basis of the Declaration, a common customs regime was established on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. All major Transnistrian enterprises have registered in Chisinau (382 by the end of 2007), which grants them access to a preferential regime for trade with the EU.
84. In December, President Voronin visited Brussels for consultations on EU-Moldova relations and the Transnistria settlement. He had a good meeting with SG/HR Solana, in which the EUSR also took part.

Future perspectives

85. The Republic of Moldova will continue to implement domestic reforms on the basis of the Action Plan. It needs to pay particular attention to improvement of the rule of law, freedom of the media, human rights and the fight against corruption. As the initial ten-year period of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the EU and the Republic of Moldova will come to an end in 2008, the Republic of Moldova wishes to start negotiations on a new agreement (the PCA will stay in force as long as none of the parties revokes it). The EU's readiness to start reflecting on a new contractual arrangement will be conditional upon Moldova's progress on the implementation of the Action Plan.
86. The EUSR will continue his efforts to resume the 5+2 talks on the Transnistria settlement. There have recently been some encouraging developments suggesting that Russia might be prepared to move forward towards re-starting the settlement process. The EU will also look for ways of supporting Moldova's initiative on confidence-building measures towards Transnistria.

South Caucasus

87. The EUSR for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Peter Semneby, has a political mandate to contribute to conflict prevention and assist with conflict settlement (Joint Action 2007/111/CFSP of 15 February 2007³²). During 2007, the EUSR regularly visited Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. These visits contributed to the quality and quantity of the EU's political dialogue with those countries and increased the visibility of the European Union in the region.
88. EUSR Semneby paid particular attention to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and to the situation in Georgia, including the internal conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and also Russian-Georgian relations. 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.

³² OJ L 46, 16.2.2007, p. 75.

The EUSR has also followed the Georgian domestic crisis closely since November 2007, meeting and promoting dialogue with all sides and facilitating domestic and international efforts to promote a full return to normality. His intensive efforts increased the leverage of the EU in Georgia.

89. During 2007, the European Union continued to contribute to the conflict settlement process in Georgia/South Ossetia³³.
90. 2007 witnessed a substantial development of relations between the EU and the three South Caucasus countries³⁴. 2007 was also the first year of the implementation of the three ENP Action Plans. Since 1 June 2007 the three South Caucasus countries have regularly been invited to align themselves with the EU's statements on regional and international issues. The Cooperation Committees with the three South Caucasus countries met in the region in September 2007, while the three Cooperation Councils met in Luxembourg on 16 October 2007. Georgia's President Saakashvili visited Brussels in February 2007, and Armenia's President Kocharyan in October 2007.
91. The Parliamentary elections in Armenia (May 2007) – the first elections in the region after the adoption of the ENP Action Plans - represented a considerable improvement compared with previous elections in the country. That constituted a positive element, which will also set the tone for the 2008 cycle of elections in the region: Armenia (Presidential, 19 February 2008), Georgia (Presidential - 5 January 2008 - and Parliamentary - May 2008) and Azerbaijan (Presidential, autumn 2008).
92. The situation with respect to freedom of the media in Azerbaijan continues to give cause for serious concern. In July 2007, a joint visit to Baku by the EUSR and the SG/HR's Personal Representative on Human Rights, Ms Kionka, took place with the aim of furthering the dialogue on media.

³³ OJ L 174, 28.6.2006, p. 9 and OJ L 181, 11.7.2007, p. 14.

³⁴ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on a more effective EU policy for South Caucasus on 17 January 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2007.

93. In line with priority area 4 of the ENP Action Plan with Georgia, cooperation on Border Management issues was maintained through continuous involvement of the EUSR Border Support Team in Georgia (BST). In the course of 2007, the Border Management Strategy developed by the BST was examined and adopted by the Georgian authorities.
94. During 2008, EUSR Semneby will continue to assist Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in carrying out the necessary reforms, in the fields of rule of law, democracy, human rights, good governance and poverty reduction in particular.
95. EUSR Semneby will also, in accordance with existing mechanisms, contribute to the prevention of conflicts and assist in creating the conditions for progress on their settlement.
96. The EUSR will proceed with the implementation of the agreed confidence-building measures in support of conflict resolution in Georgia. The deployment of two EU police liaison officers in the conflict zones with UNOMIG and the OSCE are so far the most concrete examples.
97. The EUSR will continue to support international mediation efforts on Nagorno-Karabakh. The EUSR will also continue to explore the possibility of contributing to improved Armenian-Turkey relations.
98. Finally, EUSR Semneby will work closely with the Commission on the continuation of the implementation of the ENP Action Plans with the three countries of the South Caucasus.

Central Asia

99. 2007 was marked by substantial progress in EU relations with Central Asia, with the adoption by the European Council in June of an EU Strategy for Central Asia. The Strategy aims to focus EU priorities across six main themes (human rights, rule of law, good governance and democratisation; youth and education; economic development; energy and transport links; security and stability and environment).

The Strategy provides the instruments and financing for the identification of projects in these areas, and also for the visibility and efficiency of the EU's activities there.³⁵

100. With a view to fostering ownership of the strategy in the region, the German Presidency organised two ministerial EU Troika meetings with Central Asian Foreign Ministers: in Astana on 28 March and Berlin on 30 June. During the Portuguese Presidency, the EU Troika visited four out of five Central Asian countries with a view to discussing implementation of the Strategy with the local authorities and devising priority projects for individual countries.
101. SG/HR Solana visited the region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan) on 8 to 10 October, in order to foster political dialogue at the highest level and lend his support for the implementation of the Strategy.
102. In the context of the implementation of the Strategy, an informal EU donors' coordination meeting was held in Brussels on 13 December with a view to establishing possible synergies between the EC's and Member States' activities in the region.
103. A number of high-level visits and meetings took place throughout the year in the context of contractual agreements between the EU and countries of Central Asia. The annual Cooperation Councils with Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic were held in February. A Joint Committee meeting with Turkmenistan, including an Ad Hoc Human Rights Dialogue, took place in September in Brussels, while a Joint Committee meeting with Tajikistan and a Cooperation Committee meeting with Kazakhstan were organised in December, also in Brussels. The Turkmen President visited Brussels in November 2007 with a view to enhancing EU-Turkmenistan relations.
104. The EU was active in the OSCE context with a view to reaching a decision at the Madrid OSCE Ministerial on the Kazakh bid for the OSCE Chairmanship, and now intends to use the decision reached (Kazakh Chair in 2010) as an opportunity for further political reforms in the country.

³⁵ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on an EU Strategy for Central Asia on 20 February 2008 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2007.

105. Ambassador Pierre Morel, the EUSR for Central Asia, has worked actively with various regional and international partners and travelled extensively in the region and beyond. His efforts were especially valuable with a view to the preparation of the Strategy, gradual EU reengagement with Uzbekistan, and the fostering of closer contacts with Turkmenistan following the change of leadership in the country.

The mandate of the EUSR was amended and extended twice³⁶ in order to incorporate competence for providing input for the formulation of energy security and anti-narcotics aspects of the CFSP with respect to Central Asia.

106. 2007 was also marked by gradual intensification of EU contacts with Uzbekistan, and some welcome improvement in relations, although the full potential of the relations remains unfulfilled owing to the remaining serious problems relating to the human rights situation in the country. The second experts' meeting on the 'Andijan events' took place in Tashkent in April 2007. The first session of the Human Rights dialogue with Uzbekistan took place in Tashkent on 9 May 2007.

107. On 14 May the Council renewed visa restrictions against eight individuals for six further months³⁷. On 15 October the Council decided to renew the arms embargo and the visa restrictions for a twelve-month period³⁸. However, recognising that Uzbekistan had made some welcome progress in areas such as the abolition of the death penalty and changes to habeas corpus legislation, and with a view to encouraging the Uzbek authorities to take further positive steps to improve the human rights situation and engage more constructively with international institutions such as the UN, fulfilling their international obligations, the Council decided that the visa restrictions would not apply for a period of six months, at which point the Council would decide whether the Uzbek authorities had made progress in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as in the field of the rule of law.

³⁶ Council Joint Action 2007/113/CFSP of 15 February 2007, OJ L 46, p. 83 and Council Joint Action 2007/634/CFSP of 1 October 2007, OJ L 256, p. 28.

³⁷ Council Common Position 2007/338/CFSP of 14 May 2007, OJ L128, p. 50.

³⁸ Council Common Position 2007/734/CFSP of 13 November 2007, OJ L 295, p. 34.

CHAPTER 3 - MEDITERRANEAN REGION AND TURKEY

Horizontal issues

108. The past year has seen the continuation of the implementation of the Five-Year Work Programme and the Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism, both adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Summit, held in Barcelona on 27 to 28 November 2005, with ambitious targets for political and economic reforms as well as the targeted implementation of the yearly work programme, jointly agreed at the 8th Euromed meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Tampere on 27 to 28 November 2006. That yearly work programme was subsequently reviewed by the 9th Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held in Lisbon on 5 to 6 November³⁹, which also welcomed two new members, Albania and Mauritania.
109. The policy priorities contained in the Barcelona Summit Five-Year Work Programme (2006-2009) relate to four domains: political and security cooperation, education and culture, sustainable socio-economic cooperation and migration, social integration, justice and security. The Work Programme will be financed by the Regional Indicative Programme under the ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) for 2007-2010, representing EUR 343,3 million out of a total budget of EUR 11.181 million for the period 2007-2013.⁴⁰
110. Political dialogue between all Euromed Partners continued, despite the persisting conflict in the Middle East and in other parts of the region. With regard to the Middle East Peace Process, the successive Ministerial meetings have underlined that the Barcelona process is not intended to replace the ongoing initiatives but is aimed at improving general conditions, with a view to contributing to their success; the Arab -Israeli conflict has thus regularly been at the centre of the political dialogue, held during the Euromed Senior Officials meetings.

³⁹ Euromed 1/07.

⁴⁰ 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.

111. On counter-terrorism, efforts concentrated on the practical implementation of the Euromed Code of Conduct; Euromed ad hoc meetings focused on possibilities and perspectives of technical assistance in the UN and the EU in the fight against terrorism, the contribution of the UN Initiative on Alliance of Civilisations and on the prevention of incitement to terrorism and radicalisation.
112. The specific contribution to the strengthening of partnership and dialogue between all Euro-Mediterranean partners is represented by the Slovenian initiative, recognised by Ministers, for the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean University, for which Slovenia has offered to provide the seat.
113. The first Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Migration was held in Albufeira, Portugal, on 18 and 19 November 2007. The Declaration approved in Albufeira contains a first section, of a more political nature, outlining the commitment of all Euro-Mediterranean partners to establishing and strengthening their cooperation in the area of migration and migration-related issues. It also contains a second, more operational section, covering three areas in which concrete projects are identified: legal migration, migration and development and illegal migration.
114. Regional partnership and confidence building continued through initiatives by the Euromesco network of foreign policy institutes, focusing on civil society, human rights and democracy in the region: i.e., two sub-regional seminars, in Meknès, on 21 to 23 September 2006, and in Alexandria on 26-27 April 2007, and a seminar on Governance, Reform, Human Rights in the Euromed region, in Berlin on 31 May 2007. Likewise, cooperation regarding the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean system of civil protection continued, following the increasing vulnerability of the region to natural and manmade disasters. Co-operation on best practices and the exchange of technical experience in the area of elections were launched and will be continued at expert level.

115. Euromed dialogue on ESDP and security issues continued through the holding of Euromed ad hoc meetings in June and November 2007, which reviewed civilian and military activities, i.e. orientation courses under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College and EU crisis management exercises.
116. The implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) towards Mediterranean countries continued; the Council examined the ideas set out in a Commission communication of December 2006, which aimed to strengthen the ENP; those ideas resulted in a progress report which the Presidency presented to the Council in June⁴¹. The Council welcomed that progress⁴².
117. The parliamentary dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership continued to be strengthened; the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly held its plenary session on 16 and 17 March 2007 in Tunis, focusing its debates on major issues of importance for the region such as the Euromed Free Trade Area and migrations.
118. During 2008, as agreed at the 9th Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Lisbon on 5 and 6 November, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership will focus on issues such as economic and social development, energy, climate change, civil protection, countering terrorism and extremism, European neighbourhood policy and the promotion of intercultural dialogue. 2008 was declared Euro-Mediterranean year of dialogue between cultures.

⁴¹ See 10874.

⁴² Council Conclusions of 18 June 2007.

EU-Turkey

119. In the framework of the Association Agreement and the enhanced political dialogue in 2007 and in full compliance with relevant European Council and Council conclusions, the Negotiating Framework for Turkey and the revised Accession Partnership, Turkey was encouraged to renew and intensify the reform process and to step up efforts as regards fundamental freedoms and human rights (in particular in the key areas of freedom of expression and freedom of religion), actively to support efforts to implement the agreed 8 July process leading to a comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework and in line with principles on which the EU is founded, to take steps towards the normalisation of bilateral relations with all EU Member States, including the Republic of Cyprus, and to implement fully and without discrimination the Ankara Protocol, unequivocally commit itself to good neighbourly relations and to the peaceful settlement of disputes and refrain from any threat or action which could adversely affect the process of peaceful settlement of disputes. Given their impact on steps forward in the negotiating process, all those issues will continue to be closely monitored and are the subject of discussions at similar meetings scheduled in 2008, the results of which are fed into the negotiation process. International issues of mutual interest are also discussed, given the need for the exchange of views and coordination.

Co-operation in the area of ESDP

120. In 2007, Turkey several times expressed its dissatisfaction concerning its involvement in the ESDP. The EU, collectively, addressed those concerns, inter alia through intensified dialogue during preparations for the EU operation in Chad and the Central African Republic.

121. Turkey continued to participate in the following ESDP operations and missions: "Althea" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUPM in Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUPOL Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Turkey was invited to participate in EUFOR Chad/RCA, but decided not to contribute. The Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Turkey establishing a framework for the participation of Turkey in EU crisis management operations entered into force on 1 August 2007.

122. As regards Turkey's contribution to European capabilities, Turkey withdrew its military contribution to the Supplement to the Force Catalogue 2007 in the framework of Headline Goal 2010, while maintaining its additional contributions to the EU civilian crisis management capabilities. Turkey participates in one Battlegroup (IT-RO-TU, led by IT).

CHAPTER 4 - MIDDLE EAST / GULF

Horizontal issues

123. In the margins of the Euromed Foreign Affairs Ministers' meeting in Lisbon, there was an informal meeting between the EU troika and the five Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) members (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) on 5 November 2007. That marked the resumption of a dialogue aimed at strengthening cooperation within the AMU in a pragmatic way and on very concrete projects in order to help overcome some of the deficiencies of the AMU. The meeting followed a request of the Secretary General of the AMU, Ben Yahia, in April 2007 that relations with the EU be fostered.
124. The EU Troika met with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Troika in the margins of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York on 27 September 2007. The relations between the EU and the OIC, the Middle East Peace Process and the Alliance of Civilisations were among the issues discussed. SG/HR Solana also had a bilateral meeting with the Secretary-General of the OIC, Dr. Ekmelledin Ihsanoglu, in New York on 25 September 2007.⁴³

Middle East Peace Process

125. The Council continued to support the shared goal of a two-state solution with the establishment of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours.⁴⁴

⁴³ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU strategy for reform in the Arab world on 10 May 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs committee.

⁴⁴ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Middle East on 12 July 2007.

The EU continued to underline the comprehensive nature of the MEPP, including its Lebanese and Syrian tracks. That principle was reaffirmed in the agenda and in the discussions of the Annapolis Conference, backed by the EU.

126. 2007 witnessed the following main events: a short-lived attempt, backed by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, to bring about Palestinian reconciliation by way of establishing a Palestinian national unity government, which failed abruptly when Hamas militias took over Gaza in a violent coup in the month of June. The EU endorsed the subsequent installation by President Abbas of an emergency government under Prime Minister Fayyad and the resumption of a bilateral dialogue between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas, which paved the way for the holding of the Annapolis Conference later in November.
127. 2007 was marked by increased Arab engagement in the Middle East Peace Process. On 14 May 2007 for the first time EU Foreign Affairs Ministers held an informal meeting in the margins of the Council (GAERC) with a delegation from the Arab League composed of the League's Secretary-General, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinian Authority and Qatar, as well as a representative from Egypt. The Arab delegation presented the Arab Peace Initiative to EU Foreign Affairs Ministers. Both sides agreed to continue to work together with a view to supporting efforts to reach a settlement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to enhancing cooperation between the EU and the Arab League. It was subsequently agreed that Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU and Arab League would meet in Malta on 11 and 12 February 2008 to discuss potential areas of co-operation.⁴⁵ That initiative was reaffirmed in the declaration by the Arab League Summit in Riyadh on 29 March.
128. There was also wide participation and positive involvement by Arab partners at the Annapolis Conference on 27 November, which resulted in the joint understanding between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas immediately to launch good-faith bilateral negotiations in order to conclude a peace agreement before the end of 2008. That joint understanding was supported by President Bush, who engaged himself actively in that process.

⁴⁵ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU strategy for reform in the Arab world on 10 May 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The ensuing International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State in Paris on 17 December resulted in pledges amounting to US \$ 7,4 billion in support of efforts to build the future Palestinian State in accordance with the Reform and Development Plan presented by Prime Minister Fayyad. The EU remained determined to contribute significantly to that effort, as laid down in its Action Strategy "State Building for Peace in the Middle East" endorsed by the Council (GAERC) in November, which covers the broad range of its assistance activities. An agreement was reached on the procedure for the accreditation of EUPOL COPPS by the Israeli authorities, which will allow the EU to support Palestinian Civilian Police in order to strengthen security and law and order further.

129. During the year the EU continued to cooperate closely with its Quartet Partners. The commitment of the Quartet was underlined by the appointment of former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair as Quartet Representative. In the course of 2007, the SG/HR devoted his full attention to developments in that issue, through regular visits to the region and active involvement in efforts by the Quartet.
130. Developments on the ground over the whole year were of serious concern: the critical humanitarian situation in Gaza led the EU to do its utmost, together with other international partners, to ensure the provision of emergency and humanitarian assistance. The continued closure of crossings into and out of Gaza have contributed to further deterioration in the situation and were obstacles to the efficient delivery of aid. The EU also called on all parties to work towards an opening of the crossings in and out of Gaza for humanitarian and commercial flows. Equally, the firing of Qassam rockets into Israeli territory and Israeli military action in Gaza continued. Settlement activities in and around East Jerusalem as well as in the rest of the West Bank continued to be of particular concern. The EU reiterated that it would not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders other than those agreed by the parties. Successive calls were made for the immediate release of the Palestinian legislators and the abducted Israeli soldiers. BBC reporter Alan Johnston was kidnapped in Gaza and released after four months of captivity. The EU also made repeated calls for the resumption of the transfer of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues. All this was a stark reminder of the urgency of progress towards a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The EU made clear its readiness to consider resuming its monitoring mission at Rafah under the provisions of the relevant international agreements relating to Access and Movement concluded in November 2005.

Lebanon

131. 2007 was another turbulent year for Lebanon. The institutional crisis that had started in November 2006 found no solution in 2007. The parliamentary session for the election of a president was adjourned again and again, leaving the country without a head of State.
132. Several terrorist attacks were deplored, including the assassination of two MPs from the majority, Walid Eido on 13 June and Antoine Ghanem on 19 September. The Lebanese armed forces crackdown on insurgency in the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr al Bared lasted several months and claimed hundreds of lives.
133. In this difficult year, the EU once again demonstrated its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and stability of Lebanon as well as its solidarity with the Lebanese people. Its action is consistent with the relevant UNSC Resolutions on Lebanon, notably resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701 and 1757. The Foreign Ministers of several Member States and SG/HR Solana carried out a number of visits to Lebanon.
134. The EU confirmed its role as a major financial donor to Lebanon at the "Paris III" pledging Conference in January 2007, where EU Member States and institutions accounted for almost 40% of the EUR 5.8 billion pledged by the international community against the Lebanese government's commitment to implement effective reforms at economic and social levels.
135. EU Member States are the main contributors to the enhanced UNIFIL, deployed side by side with the Lebanese armed forces. Despite a number of attacks, in one of which six peacekeepers of the Spanish contingent lost their lives, the mission can be considered successful. In August 2007 it was prolonged for another year. EU Member States have also played a leading role in providing security sector assistance to the government of Lebanon, including helping it to secure its borders.

136. EU Member States actively supported, contributed to and facilitated the setting up of the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon that will be located in the Netherlands.
137. The EU and the Member States deployed intense diplomatic activity aimed at helping to overcome the political deadlock continuing since November 2006. Other activities to be mentioned: SG/HR Solana's visit to Beirut, Riyadh and Damascus in March 2007, the Inter-Lebanese meeting at Celle St-Cloud on 14 to 15 July facilitated by France, which conducted intense mediation in Lebanon and in the region. The EU also actively supported relevant mediation efforts by the UN, Saudi Arabia and the Arab League. Those efforts will continue in 2008.
138. On the institutional side, the entry into force of the EU-Lebanon ENP Action Plan in January 2007 marked a further upgrading of the existing cooperation in the framework of the Association Agreement and the Barcelona Process. The Second EU-Lebanon Association Council met in Luxembourg on 24 April and the First Association Committee met in Beirut on 14 November. An EU-Lebanon Economic Dialogue and several Subcommittee meetings were also held in 2007.

Syria

139. The EU upheld its firm position vis-à-vis Syria in 2007. The EU and its Member States repeatedly called on Syria to act constructively and to contribute to the efforts aimed at stabilising the region. Expectations include respect for Lebanon's independence and positive contributions to Lebanon's political stability, including the establishment of diplomatic relations, cessation of support for radical groups opposed to the Middle East Peace Process, imposition of the arms embargo and cooperation with the Special Tribunal set up to elucidate the assassination of Rafiq Hariri and subsequent political assassinations in Lebanon.
140. The SG/HR met President Assad in Damascus on 14 March 2007 to deliver this unanimous position of the EU. At the same time he stated that Syria was an important member in the Euro-Mediterranean family and in the Arab world and called on the country to take up the opportunity once again to develop normal relations with the international community and the EU.

141. Beyond the regional situation, the EU expressed concern at the continued deterioration of the human rights situation in Syria. EU embassies in Damascus remained very active, following on a regular basis the trials at the State Security Courts, the Military Court and the Criminal Court.
142. The EU carried out several demarches and made public statements on the resumption of public executions at the end of November, as well as on the arrests of several supporters of the "Damascus Declaration for Democratic National Change" on 31 December.
143. In 2008, the EU will continue to insist on the further stabilisation of Lebanon. The EU has always been of the opinion that any solution to the conflict in the Middle East has to be comprehensive and include addressing the Lebanese and Syrian track. It has made openings towards Syria. Syria's response will be a key factor for further developments in bilateral relations, including the signature of the EU-Syria Association Agreement.

Israel

144. The political situation in the Middle East figured high on the EU-Israel bilateral agenda and was discussed at various meetings throughout 2007, in particular at the seventh EU-Israel Association Council in Brussels on 5 March 2007, the sixth Association Committee in Jerusalem on 4 June 2007 and the third meeting of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Subcommittee on 22 October 2007.
145. 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 further enhanced and diversified their dialogue and cooperation on a certain number of political issues. In addition to the Association Council and Association Committee, a series of sub-committees have been activated for that purpose and have held meetings during 2007, e.g. the sub-committee on Research, innovation, information society, education and culture; Social and migration affairs; Justice and legal matters; Environment and energy; Customs cooperation and taxation; Agriculture and fisheries; and Transport.

The informal working group on human rights - established by the sub-committee on political dialogue and cooperation - which held its second meeting in Brussels on 20 February 2007, deserves special mention in this context. It provided the opportunity for the discussion of issues on, *inter alia* minorities, respect for human rights, including respect for religious freedom and belief, Israeli settlement expansion, administrative detention including individual cases, international humanitarian law, as well as questions related to the UN Human Rights Council, and thereby established a closer bilateral dialogue on those issues. Particular emphasis was given to EU concerns regarding the restrictive Israeli policy of entry of EU nationals into the Occupied Palestinian Territories. On 21 February 2007, another informal working group exchanged views on the means of cooperating within international organisations.

146. At the 7th EU-Israel Association Council on 5 March 2007, Israel expressed its interest in significantly upgrading its relations with the European Union. During the Association Council the EU-Israeli Reflection Group was established with the aim of considering ways of upgrading those relations. Since then two meetings of the EU-Israeli Reflection Group have been organised: the first in Jerusalem on 3 June 2007 and the second in Brussels on 9 October 2007. On both occasions, the EU stressed that the European Neighbourhood Policy was based on the principle of differentiation and also on the commitment to achieving closer cooperation and dialogue on the basis of shared values, including the promotion of peace and stability in the Middle East.

Iran

147. The Council remains committed to building a long-term relationship with Iran based on confidence and cooperation, but has also made it clear that that depends on progress on all issues of concern, in particular the nuclear issue, terrorism, Iran's approach to the Middle East Peace Process, human rights and regional issues.⁴⁶

148. The human rights situation in Iran remained a key priority for the EU. In 2007, through the Presidency, the EU continued to regret the deterioration of the human rights situation in Iran and called on Iran to ensure implementation of its human rights obligations.

⁴⁶ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Iran on 25 October 2007.

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 and adopted with a vote in December 2007. Despite the cancellation by Iran of the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue, which was due for December 2006, the EU remains committed to dialogue and will continue to raise urgent human rights issues, both directly with Iranian authorities and publicly.

149. Progress in other areas was limited. The EU reiterated its offer of a meeting of the EU-Iran Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG) to Iran, but did not get any reply. The EU is taking an increasing interest in Iran's regional role. However, the EU continued to express concern, through the Presidency, at 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.
150. The Council adopted the necessary legal acts to implement UNSCR 1737 and 1747. It also applied restrictions on admission and the freezing of funds with respect to additional persons and entities, as determined by the Council using the same criteria as those applied by the Security Council.
151. In 2008, the nuclear issue will remain on the agenda. 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.

Iraq

152. The EU continued to strengthen its relations with Iraq, with Foreign Ministers agreeing at the General Affairs Council meeting on 19 and 20 November to identify further support to Iraq, including support to the UN to fulfil its role as set out in UNSCR 1770; to identify further contributions to help alleviate the humanitarian situation in Iraq; to identify and take opportunities to provide further human rights support and to assist the Iraq authorities in meeting their responsibilities in accordance with the International Compact for Iraq.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on a Special Measure 2007 for Iraq on 25 October 2007 and on the European Union's role in Iraq on 13 March 2008 on the basis of a report from the Foreign Affairs Committee from 2007.

153. The EU participated actively in the neighbouring countries process in 2007, and will continue to support the process through the Expanded Ministerial Conferences of the Neighbouring Countries. The EU strongly encourages neighbouring countries to contribute constructively to the political stabilisation of Iraq. It continued the political dialogue with Iraq at all levels in accordance with the EU-Iraq Joint Declaration on Political Dialogue of 21 September 2005.
154. In 2007 the EU continued to provide substantial reconstruction and relief assistance to Iraq, totalling EUR 110 million ⁴⁸ in Community funds. Less than half (EUR 40 million) was provided through contributions to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI), the remainder mainly going to assist refugees and the internally displaced (EUR 17 million) in humanitarian assistance from ECHO, and EUR 39 million to assist the health and education sectors in Syria and Jordan in coping with the influx of Iraqi refugees). The Commission prepared for the launch of a new broad-based Rule of Law project (EUR 14 million), while the EU continued its efforts to address the urgent needs of the Iraqi criminal justice system through the Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX). That ESDP Mission facilitates professional learning opportunities for senior officials of the Iraqi criminal justice sector, namely the Police Service, the Judiciary and the Correctional (prisons) Service.
155. The mission has a Coordination Office in Brussels and a Liaison Office in Baghdad. The courses are being provided by the Member States and take place in Europe.
156. The Mission's second extension period ended on 31 December 2007, by which time the Mission had successfully facilitated a total of 59 EUJUST LEX professional training courses and 10 Work Experience Secondments. The total number of Iraqi participants to date is 1431, of which 812 are senior police officers, 424 judges and prosecutors and 195 senior penitentiary staff.

⁴⁸ This amount includes all Community funds whether they come from DCI, ECHO, IfS or the AENEAS programme.

157. The third operational phase of the Mission, covering a period of eighteen months, began on 1 January 2008. The relevant Joint Action (2007/760/CFSP) was adopted on 22 November 2007. The Mission will continue to pursue its goals through training courses and work secondments. In the drafting of the course programme for 2008/2009, EUJUST LEX will take into account the results of an evaluation exercise undertaken by the Mission in autumn 2007.
158. In addition, the EU and Iraq launched the negotiations on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement on 20 November 2006. There have been two rounds of negotiations in 2007. The Agreement will provide the first ever foundation for contractual relations between the EU and Iraq. The Agreement aims to provide a basic framework for expanding cooperation and supporting Iraqi re-integration into the international economic system.

Gulf Cooperation Council

159. The 17th EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial meeting took place in Riyadh on 8 May 2007, hosted by the GCC Presidency, Saudi Arabia. The meeting was attended by a large number of the EU's 27 Foreign Ministers and by the EU Commissioners for External Relations and Trade, reflecting the EU's wish to move forward and bring the free trade negotiations to a positive conclusion. The discussions at the Ministerial meeting covered a wide range of subjects, including the Middle East Peace Process, the situation in Iran and Iraq, human rights, counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In preparation for the Joint Council and Ministerial meeting, EU and GCC officials met in Brussels on 12 and 27 February 2007. The EU Foreign Ministers Troika also met with their GCC counterparts at a Political Dialogue meeting in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September.
160. Throughout 2007, negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement continued with an even larger number of negotiating rounds than in previous years. Substantial progress was achieved, leaving only a few issues unsolved. Provisions concerning human rights, the fight against terrorism and cooperation in the area of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction have been agreed upon. The aim is to finalise negotiations in 2008 in order to provide the right circumstances for further development of EU-GCC relations, taking into account the EU's wish to deepen relations with the Arab Gulf states.

Yemen

161. Since Yemen's re-unification in 1990, relations with the EU have developed steadily. In 2003, bilateral trade and cooperation relations were further strengthened by the establishment of political dialogue. Hence, in 2007, the 14th EC-Yemen Cooperation Committee met in Brussels on 26 June, followed by the 4th EU - Yemen Political Dialogue on 25 October 2007, also in Brussels. Issues discussed included democratisation and reforms, human rights, freedom of the media, counter-terrorism, Iraq, Iran, the Middle East Peace Process, the situation in the unstable northern part of Yemen, and the Horn of Africa. The deconcentration of the EC programme to Sana'a from Amman is expected in the first half of 2008.
162. Yemen's geographic position on the Southern part of the Gulf peninsula allows it to play an important bridging role between the Arab world and Africa. At the same time, it also makes the country a vulnerable first destination for refugees coming out of Somalia and other unstable African countries. In 2007, the EU provided humanitarian assistance for refugees from the Horn of Africa in Yemen.
163. Security remains a challenge in Yemen, including the risk of terrorist attacks. In January 2008 two Belgian tourists were killed and five European tourists were attacked and killed in Yemen in 2007. In its discussions with Yemen, the EU has welcomed the Yemen Government's active attention to counter-terrorism.

CHAPTER 5 - AFRICA

Bi-regional cooperation

164. On 8 and 9 December 2007, the second EU-Africa Summit was held in Lisbon, the first since 2000 in Cairo. The Summit was a success and a milestone on the way to further intensified relations between the EU and Africa. It represented the culmination point of a process of reviewing, revising and revitalising the long-standing EU-Africa partnership to embrace realities, new challenges and new opportunities among which are: the emergence of the African Union (AU), the launching of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2002, and the adoption in 2005 of the EU Strategy for Africa.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on EU-Africa relations on 25 October 2007 and EU partnership in the Horn of Africa on 10 May 2007.

165. The Summit highlighted the positive changes in Africa in recent years – rapid economic growth, improved governance and respect for human rights in many countries, the new geo-strategic importance of the African continent and the increasing engagement of other partners in Africa. These changes have made it possible, and necessary, for the EU and Africa to put their relationship on a more equal and political footing and to establish a Strategic Partnership.
166. The Summit also highlighted that the Strategic Partnership is not only a responsibility of governmental actors and executive agencies but also of Parliaments and non-institutional actors which in many cases have longstanding cultural, social and economic ties of which better use should be made. The European and Pan-African Parliaments provided important input to the preparation of the Summit and their Presidents made key contributions at the opening session.
167. The foundations of the new Strategic Partnership are the Lisbon Declaration, the Joint Africa/EU Strategy and the First Action Plan for its implementation (2008-2010). The Joint Strategy and the Action Plan are the result of an intensive joint drafting and negotiation process. The process was enriched by thorough consultation of the European Parliament, civil society organisations and the broader public on both sides. The main characteristics of the Joint Strategy are that it does not focus on Africa alone, but also commits the partners jointly to address issues of mutual and global interest, and that it foresees and encourages the involvement of a broad spectrum of both institutional and civil society actors.
168. The Joint Strategy is complemented by an Action Plan which sets out clear and measurable priorities and concrete objectives for the period 2008-2010 in the fields of peace and security; democratic governance and human rights; trade, regional integration and infrastructure; Millennium Development Goals; energy; climate change; migration, mobility and employment; science, information society and space.

169. The implementation of the Joint Strategy and its ambitious Action Plan will require combined efforts by the EU Member States and the African countries and their respective joint bodies and institutions. Parliaments and non-institutional actors are expected to contribute actively to the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan.
170. An important priority of the Strategic Partnership and of the Action Plan is the further building-up of the capacities of African institutions to assume their role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and crisis situations. The EU and the AU can build on successful cooperation over the last few years, where Community instruments, the EDF and EU crisis management instruments, as well as the individual contributions of EU Member States have supported the build-up of the African Peace and Security Architecture. Progress has been made in areas such as the establishment of a Continental Early Warning System, the African Stand-by Force and a well functioning AU Peace and Security Council.
171. The appointment of Mr Koen Vervaeke as both EUSR and Head of the Commission Delegation to the AU on 6 December reflects the importance the EU attaches to its relations with the AU. The appointment of the EUSR will increase the EU's visibility, help to intensify further the dialogue and exchange with the AU and, in particular, facilitate the implementation of the Joint Strategy and its first Action Plan.

Great Lakes / Democratic Republic of the Congo

172. The Great Lakes region has remained at the centre of the EU's attention, in particular through the activities of the EUSR for the Great Lakes. EUSR van de Geer has in particular focused his attention on conflict resolution in the Great Lakes, in particular as regards the east of the DRC, aiming at coordinating the EU's actions with that of other international actors and in the context of the regional security architecture.
173. Meetings of the Tripartite Plus, the International Contact Group on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the International Conference on the Great Lakes region, as well as bilateral meetings, led to positive results in 2007.

On 9 November 2007, a joint communiqué was issued by the DRC and Rwanda, acknowledging the negative role played by the Democratic Liberation Forces (FDLR) as regards instability in the east of the DRC. Unfortunately, the principles agreed in the Nairobi communiqué were not immediately put into practice, as the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) launched an offensive against the rebel forces of renegade General Nkunda. Throughout 2007 the EU remained concerned at the humanitarian situation in the DRC, where at the end of 2007 as many as 800.000 people were displaced and the number of casualties and wounded had reached an unacceptably high level. The SG/HR's Personal Representative for Human Rights, Mrs Kionka, visited the east of the DRC in November and expressed the EU's deep concern at the ongoing human rights violations. In the field of Security Sector Reform in the DRC, the ESDP missions were active in providing advice concerning the reform of the police, defence and (criminal) justice areas.

174. The EUPOL RD Congo mission was launched on 1 July 2007 and has an initial duration of one year. EUPOL RD Congo has a strength of thirty-nine international experts (three of whom are women), from nine EU Members States and two invited third States (Switzerland and Angola). The Head of Mission is a Portuguese Superintendent, Mr Adilio Ruivo Custodio.
175. This mission is to support the efforts of the Congolese government in the reform of the police sector through the provision of expertise for the upcoming *Comité de Suivi de la Réforme de la Police* (CSR), which it is intended will be an appropriate forum where all international and local actors will interact in support of the police reform. EUPOL RD Congo assists the *Police Nationale Congolaise* (PNC) in its efforts to improve the efficiency of the *Police Judiciaire* in Kinshasa and to set up a national operations centre for the management of public order in the capital. The Mission has trained the Congolese police to ensure that it acts in accordance with the best international police practices and human rights, and is currently supporting the linkage between the police and justice realms through its justice interface cell.
176. EUPOL RD Congo also assists in the overall coordination of the national Security Sector Reform (SSR) that encompasses the Police, Justice and Defence pillars.

177. EUPOL RD Congo works in close cooperation with the other ESDP mission in the DRC, EUSEC RD Congo, in particular through joint capacities (namely in the fields of security, human rights/children in armed conflict, gender and press and public information).
178. EUSEC RD Congo has continued its counselling activities on Security Sector Reform in a context marked by the arrival in March 2007 of a new Congolese Government. Since then, clear priority has been given by the Congolese authorities to addressing militarily the instability in the east of the country, which worked to the detriment of longer-term defence reforms.
179. Advisory work was continued throughout that period by EUPOL RD Congo and EUSEC RD Congo but, particularly on defence issues, a number of diverging opinions within the Democratic Republic of the Congo concerning the structure of the future army gave rise to some difficulties in the field. A Round Table on SSR to discuss the future of the justice, police and defence reform was not organised by the Congolese counterpart in 2007, as was initially planned, partly owing to the situation in the east. The Round Table finally took place in Kinshasa on 25 and 26 February 2008. Discussions on how to implement the strategic vision that the Congolese authorities presented during the Round Table are currently taking place.
180. At the end of November the EU Presidency welcomed the creation of a new government in Burundi, also reiterating support for the Regional Initiative and underlining the importance of implementing the 2006 agreements. As regards Rwanda and Uganda, the EUSR visited the countries regularly. In the conflict in Northern Uganda, the EU remained active in trying to get the Juba peace talks back on track, through the EUSR for Sudan's representative for the Juba peace talks, based in Juba.

Sudan/Darfur

181. The EU continued its active engagement through a multifaceted response to the political, security and humanitarian problems in Sudan, in particular the serious conflict in Darfur.

182. Following the ongoing violence against civilians and humanitarian organisations working in Darfur, the Council repeatedly demanded that all parties refrain from any form of violence. It called upon the Sudanese authorities to fulfil their responsibilities, provide protection to all their citizens and put an end to impunity in Darfur. On several occasions and separately from the application of sanctions under UNSCR 1591, the Council reiterated its support, in particular within a UN-framework, for the consideration of further measures against those who undermine peace and security in the region, especially any party that obstructs humanitarian access. The Council called upon the Government of Sudan to co-operate unconditionally with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to surrender the two individuals for whom the ICC issued arrest warrants on 27 April 2007 in connection with alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.
183. EU efforts continued to consolidate the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), particularly by bringing the non-signatory rebel movements to join the agreement.
184. However, the trend of further disintegration of rebel groups and the formation of many new splinter groups complicated efforts to establish a level playing field. The continued violence in Darfur made it more and more evident that improving the security situation in neighbouring Chad and in the Central African Republic (CAR) needed to be addressed at the same time.
185. The EU worked actively to maintain pressure on all parties to the conflict to engage in a political process with a view to reaching a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The EU has accordingly actively supported the African Union (AU)/United Nations (UN) jointly led mediation process on Darfur through a strong presence at the peace talks and close cooperation with key international players, notably via the EUSR, as well as through financial support.
186. The Sirte Peace talks (27 October 2007) between the Government of Sudan and Darfur rebel groups started a long political process after a long standstill. Unfortunately, they did not fulfil initial expectations because of the absence of some important rebel opposition groups. Nevertheless, the EU continued supporting various initiatives under the AU/UN facilitation to bring all parties together to continue the process.

187. Throughout 2007, the EU continued to provide a consolidated package of civilian and military measures to support AMIS, in response to a request from the AU. This included assistance with planning and equipment and technical and financial support.
188. After persistent pressure from the EU, together with the international community, the Sudanese government accepted (July 2007) the deployment of a UN/AU Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The Second High Level Consultation on Darfur took place in New York (21 September) with extensive EU participation. In view of the transition from the AU Mission (AMIS) to UNAMID the EU has decided to close the civilian and military component of its support action by the end of 2007. The transition took place on 31 December 2007.
189. Simultaneous efforts were made, through the EUSR for Sudan (EUSR) in particular, to follow north-south relations and the status of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The 11 October 2007 decision of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to suspend their participation in the Government of National Unity confirmed the relevance of the strategy to promote a holistic approach to addressing the crisis in Sudan: successful implementation of the CPA is essential to the peaceful settlement of the crisis in Darfur and other regions in Sudan. At the same time , because of the sheer complexity and extremely dynamic nature of the Darfur conflict, the EUSR devoted a large part of his time to this crisis.
190. He met regularly with Sudanese authorities and regional and international players to discuss the EU positions on the various issues in Sudan (Darfur crisis, CPA implementation, AMIS transfer to a UN mission, etc). The EUSR worked closely with the AU and the UN, and his team in Addis Ababa has been instrumental in coordinating EU support for the peacekeeping operations in Darfur.
191. In full support of the AU/UN-led mediation to restart the political process the EU will continue to work for progress towards a peaceful solution of the Darfur conflict. In this context, a major challenge will be to bring together the various rebel factions.

Similarly, further support will be given to UNAMID for the stabilisation and improvement of the security and human rights situation in Darfur. To address the regional dimensions of the Darfur conflict, particularly the destabilising effects in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) and the need to protect displaced populations, the EU decided to deploy a military force (EUFOR Tchad/RCA) to these countries.

192. Finally, implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) will remain a key priority for the EU. It will continue to encourage both sides in the Government of National Unity to work together in good faith to implement the remaining provisions. In this very complex and difficult environment, the EU will continue to play an important role in establishing a coordinated line among the main international actors on the key issues at stake.

Chad/Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA)

193. On 15 October 2007 the Council decided, with the adoption of Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP, to conduct a military bridging operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic, named EUFOR Tchad/RCA, in accordance with the mandate set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1778 (2007). With that decision, the EU has stepped up its longstanding action in support of efforts to tackle the crisis in Darfur and to address its regional ramifications, notably in eastern Chad and the north-eastern part of the Central African Republic.

194. The European Parliament adopted two important resolutions on Chad in 2007, voicing its concern at the escalation of violence in Chad and the wider region and supporting the deployment of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA⁵⁰.

195. On 28 January 2008 the EU decided to launch the military operation in Chad and the Central African Republic, authorising the EU Operation Commander with immediate effect to start the deployment of the multinational forces and the execution of the operation.

⁵⁰ EP resolution of 27 September 2007 on ESDP operation in Chad and the Central African and EP resolution of 13 December 2007 on Eastern Chad Republic.

196. The deployment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA is a concrete expression of the EU's commitment to work actively for the improvement of the security situation in eastern Chad and the north-east of the CAR. It is aimed at contributing to the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance, helping to create the conditions for displaced people to return to their places of origin voluntarily, and playing a part in ensuring the UN mission's security and freedom to operate.
197. This operation can be seen as part of a comprehensive package of enhanced EU commitment to a solution to the crisis in the region, with a focus on Darfur. All EU instruments – diplomatic, political and financial – will be mobilised in support of the commitment. The deployment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA has been welcomed by the governments of Chad and the Central African Republic. The EU military operation will be conducted in consultation with the authorities of the countries concerned.
198. In the Central African Republic, the EU continued its financial support to FOMUC (Force Multinationale en Centrafrique de la CEMAC) in 2007 through the African Peace Facility and will continue to do so in 2008 under FOMUC IV. FOMUC III's mandate was to contribute to the CAR's security and restructuring of the armed forces, to accompany the national reconciliation process and to economic revival. In 2008, FOMUC IV's mandate will be "to contribute to environmental measures linked to Security Sector Reform, to the national reconciliation process and to the development clusters project of the European Union".

Somalia

199. The EU has continued its commitment to attempting to improve the political, security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Somalia. There have been positive political developments, such as the National Reconciliation Congress in the summer of 2007 and the appointment of a new Prime Minister, Mr Nur Hassan Hussein, by the end of 2007. The Prime Minister has shown willingness to open dialogue with parts of the opposition inside and outside Somalia. The EU has welcomed the new Prime Minister, and encouraged him to establish a Road Map for the remainder of the transitional period. In support of that, as a key donor, the EU is providing EUR 4.5 million for a six-month start-up package of support for the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, which will be administered by UNDP.

200. The UN coordinates international support for Somalia through the new Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Somalia, Mr Ould-Abdallah. SG/HR Solana has met with Mr Ould-Abdallah and assured him that the EU fully supports the UN's efforts in Somalia. The EU has also participated in the International Contact Group on Somalia, where key international partners share their analysis of the situation in Somalia.
201. The EU has supported the AU mission in Somalia, AMISOM, and called for it to be reinforced. A stronger AMISOM is necessary to enable the Ethiopian forces to withdraw. The EU has also expressed great concern for the humanitarian and human rights situation and has repeatedly called for improved humanitarian access and better monitoring and protection of human rights.
202. The EU supports the African Union peacekeeping force in Somalia (AMISOM), providing EUR 15 million under the Africa Peace Facility (AFP) for the deployment of Ugandan troops and EUR 5 million from the Instrument for Stability in support of the AU's strategic and management cell.

South Africa

203. Within the framework of the South Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership, the first Ministerial troika meeting was held in Brussels on 14 May. The Ministers adopted a Joint Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Partnership. It was agreed to establish a new overarching umbrella structure for all existing fora of cooperation and to intensify the existing dialogue at all levels of cooperation. The enhanced political dialogue and stronger political cooperation form the very cornerstone of the Strategic Partnership adopted in November 2006. The Action Plan therefore makes provision for twice-yearly Ministerial meetings and for the organisation of dialogue meetings at summit level at regular intervals.
204. It has been decided to deepen and broaden cooperation in all areas, including global peace and security, development, the environment and climate change, science and technology as well as other areas. The Partnership also recognises the importance of regular and institutionalised parliamentary interaction.

205. On 10 October the second Ministerial troika meeting was held in Tshwane, South Africa, followed by a meeting of the EU-South Africa Cooperation Council. Ministers discussed ongoing cooperation in areas of peace and security, customs and energy cooperation and the revision of the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement. They expressed the wish to hold an South Africa-EU Summit as soon as possible.
206. The EU's assistance in the area of conflict prevention targets capacity building with the department of justice and support for the police and Parliament. Support for the Civil Society focuses on facilitating access to legal advice and awareness raising and promotion of constitutional rights (EUR 15 million).

West Africa / Guinea Bissau

207. The political situation has improved in the sub-region, with democratic change following elections in a number of countries such as Togo and Sierra Leone. In Togo, the EU closed consultations under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement and resumed a normal political dialogue with the country. The results of the elections were contested in Nigeria, where the EU seeks to deepen the dialogue with the new authorities on the follow-up to the recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission. In Côte d'Ivoire, progress in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement between the parties in conflict has been slow. The EU contributes substantially to the organisation of elections, now scheduled for mid-2008. The EU is continuing consultations with Guinea Conakry, where the agreement between the President and Trade Unions to install a consensus Prime Minister following the February 2007 revolts remains fragile.
208. In Guinea-Bissau, the EU is making a major effort to support the Government's plans for security sector reform, with all available instruments. Existing funding under the European Development Fund and support from the Stability Instrument will soon be complemented by an ESDP advisory mission on security sector reform, EU SSR Guinea-Bissau.
209. On 10 December 2007, the Council approved the General Concept of an ESDP Mission to support on Security Sector Reform in Guinea-Bissau (EU SSR Guinea-Bissau). On 12 February 2008 the Council adopted the Joint Action on EU SSR Guinea-Bissau.

Restrictive measures against Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe

210. In 2007, the Council continued to fully implement the UN sanctions against Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
211. On 22 November 2007, the Council implemented United Nations Security Council Resolution 1782(2007) by renewing the restrictive measures imposed against Côte d'Ivoire until 31 October 2008⁵¹.
212. With regard to Liberia, the Council extended the restrictive measures on travel imposed by UNSCR 1521(2003) until 22 December 2007⁵², in line with UNSCR 1731(2006). However, following the adoption by the UN Security Council of UNSCR 1753(2007), the Council decided on 11 June 2007 to terminate the prohibition on the import of rough diamonds from Liberia into the Community.
213. During 2007, the Council implemented UNSCR 1725(2006) and UNSCR 1744(2007), which, *inter alia* introduced additional exemptions to the arms embargo, by adopting Common Position 2007/94/CFSP of 12 February 2007 concerning restrictive measures against Somalia⁵³ and Common Position 2007/391/CFSP⁵⁴ of 7 June 2007 amending Common Position 2002/960/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia.
214. On 10 August 2007, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1771(2007) extending until 15 February 2008 the restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo and also providing for new exemptions. The Council implemented that UNSCR by adopting Common Position 2007/654/CFSP⁵⁵.

⁵¹ OJ L 305, 23.11.2007, p. 61.

⁵² OJ L 41, 13.2.2007, p. 17.

⁵³ OJ L 41, 13.2.2007, p. 19.

⁵⁴ OJL146, 8.6.2007, p. 23.

⁵⁵ OJ L 264, 10.10.2007, p. 11.

215. On 19 February 2007, the Council extended the restrictive measures against Zimbabwe, imposed by Common Position 2004/235/CFSP, until 20 February 2008⁵⁶. On that occasion, and subsequently on 16 April and 25 June 2007, the Council also updated and revised the list of persons to whom Common Position 2004/161/CFSP applies.
216. The Council keeps restrictive measures under regular review in order to determine whether their specific objectives have been met. Where that is not the case, the Council may decide that the measures should continue, while supplementing or amending them as appropriate. In the course of 2008, the Council will revisit all sanctions regimes due for review, paying particular attention to those measures which have been imposed autonomously by the EU. Furthermore, the Council is continuing its efforts to provide as much specific identifying information as possible to allow for an unambiguous identification of the targeted persons and entities, in order to improve the effectiveness of the restrictive measures it imposes.

CHAPTER 6 - TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

EU-US

217. The annual EU-US Summit was held in Washington on 30 April 2007. Discussions focused on promoting transatlantic economic integration, the visa-waiver issue, Doha, energy and climate change, Kosovo, Iran, Lebanon, MEPP, Sudan, Latin America and Ukraine. The declaration adopted showed a renewed commitment to deepening cooperation in three main areas, namely advancing transatlantic economic integration between the EU and the US, in particular by establishing the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), promoting peace, human rights and democracy worldwide, and energy security, efficiency and climate change.
218. The declaration provided a detailed working programme in the areas mentioned. Two agreements were signed, namely the first stage of an air transport agreement and an agreement on the secure exchange of classified information.

⁵⁶ OJ L 51, 20.2.2007, p. 25; OJ L 101, 18.4.2007, p. 14; OJ L 172, 30.6.2007, p. 89.

219. Consultations intensified and genuine progress was achieved during 2007 in several areas, including a number of those that the EU identified as priorities, such as climate change, widening of the visa-waiver programme, regulatory cooperation, a dialogue on investment, an air-transport agreement, crisis management cooperation and a dialogue on counter-terrorism and international law, as well as on a number of regional issues such as Kosovo, the Middle East Peace Process, Iran and Sudan.
220. In preparing the 2008 EU-US Summit in Slovenia, the Union will adopt a pro-active stance, strive to speak with one voice and aim for concrete results. Priority issues for the Summit could include: deliverables of the TEC - where the EP's role is enhanced via the participation of the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue; climate change/energy; Doha; the visa-waiver issue; agreement on a set of principles for data protection; a second stage Air-Transport Agreement; the possible signing of an Agreement on aviation safety, as well as on the scanning of 100% of containers US bound; US commitment to the multilateral framework on disarmament and non-proliferation; US participation in the UN Human Rights Council; further cooperation on crisis management; continued consultations on counter-terrorism and international humanitarian law; continued coordination of actions in the area of democracy promotion. Intensive consultations will continue on a number of regional issues such as Kosovo, the frozen conflict in Transnistria, MEPP, Syria and Lebanon, Iran, Sudan/Darfur, Afghanistan. The EU will seek to engage in a more strategic discussion on relations with Russia.

EU-Canada

221. The EU-Canada Summit finally took place on 4 June 2007. It was a productive summit focusing on three main areas: foreign policy and international security (in particular Afghanistan - Canadian participation in EUPOL, EU cooperation with the Canadian In-Service Training Facility), climate change/energy security (underlining the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by at least half by 2050) and economic partnership (launching of a study on the costs and benefits of a closer economic partnership). A summit statement and a regulatory cooperation roadmap were adopted. It was agreed to launch negotiations on an Air Services Agreement.

222. The study examining and assessing the costs and benefits of a closer economic partnership between the EU and Canada launched at the Summit in 2007 is due to be finished in June 2008. Its results are to be presented and discussed at the next Summit in October 2008.
223. Canada is one of the most important partners in ESDP operations and has been invited to participate in most of the operations involving third states. At the 2007 summit, it was agreed to deepen EU – Canada cooperation on crisis management. Currently, Canada participates in the following civilian missions: the EU Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM II) and EUPOL Afghanistan. As agreed at the summit, a relationship is being established between the EU and Canada's Stabilization and Reconstruction Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Canada contributed to the military ESDP Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina (from 2004 to 2007) and to EU action in support of AMIS (African Union Mission in Sudan).

CHAPTER 7 - ASIA-OCEANIA

Regional approach

East Asia Policy Guidelines

224. At the end of 2007 the Council published the "Guidelines on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy in East Asia", which set out the key tenets of EU policy towards the region.

ASEAN

225. Previous years' efforts to strengthen EU-ASEAN partnership produced results in 2007. EU-ASEAN relations widened too, foreign policy and security now being consistently present in the bilateral political documents as areas of fully-fledged cooperation. The biennial Ministerial Meeting in March 2007 adopted a Nuremberg Declaration on an EU-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership. A Commemorative Summit (Singapore, November 2007) marked the 30th anniversary of EU-ASEAN relations, affirmed the aims for future cooperation set in Nuremberg and adopted a Plan of Action for their implementation. Projects under the Plan will be financed by EU Member States, the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council.

In a gesture of political commitment to the region, the EU has undertaken to accede to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) and has maintained a close interest in developments in the region including the ASEAN charter, the possibility of ASEAN's establishing a human rights body, developments in the ASEAN+3 relationship and progress of the East Asia Summit (EAS).

ASEM

226. The ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting, held in Hamburg on 28 and 29 May 2007, for the first time included new Asian partners – India, Pakistan, Mongolia, consolidated the ASEM process, ensured the follow up to the Helsinki Summit, prepared the ASEM VII Summit in China in 2008 and provided for focused political discussions by the Foreign Ministers on strategic and security policy issues in Asia/the Pacific.

ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum)

227. The EU continued to play an active role in the ARF, which remains the only encompassing political and security dialogue forum in Asia-the Pacific. SG/HR Solana led the EU delegation to the ARF Ministerial in Manila on 2 August and held many bilateral meetings in the margins. Thanks to Finland and Germany, the EU hosted two ARF meetings in Europe, both in cooperation with Indonesia, and co-chaired one in Cambodia on a priority area for EU action as are Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

North East Asia

China

228. Following the adoption, in December 2006, of Council conclusions on the EU-China strategic partnership, negotiations were launched in early 2007 on a Partnership and Co-operation Agreement with China. They continued throughout 2007 and will intensify during 2008.

229. The EU agreed a strategic partnership with China in 2003. The partnership was further developed in 2007, in particular at the 10th EU-China Summit in November.⁵⁷ Given the complexity of the relationship, differences remain on a number of important issues such as human rights, a subject on which the EU and China maintain a specific dialogue.

⁵⁷ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU-China Summit and the EU/China human rights dialogue on 13 December 2007.

The EU appreciates China's constructive role in regional security and dialogue organisations, and also its increasing commitment to UN peace-keeping operations. The intensity of bilateral consultations has grown in 2007 on a great variety of subjects, including major international issues (such as Iran and the Middle East, but also Burma/Myanmar, the Korean Peninsula and Kosovo), as well as global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development and Africa. SG/HR Solana has maintained very close contacts with his Chinese counterpart and will continue to do so in 2008.

230. The 10th EU-China Summit was held in Beijing on 28 November 2007. It issued a very articulate and complex Joint Statement, addressing an extremely wide array of international and global issues. The Summit also decided on the establishment, by the end of March 2008, of a "High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue", at Vice-premier level, between the European Commission and the State Council of China, to discuss issues relating to the trade deficit.
231. Cross-straits relations took centre stage in 2007 and will continue to do so throughout 2008. The EU position is based on two tenets: firm commitment to its "One China Policy", and conviction that cross-straits problems should be solved through dialogue and peaceful means.
232. The EU has always made it clear that it welcomes Taiwan's public reiteration of its commitment not to change the status quo, and has continued to urge both sides to refrain from statements and actions which might provoke the other or raise tension. In the framework of its "One China Policy, the EU will continue to encourage both sides to pursue pragmatic solutions to questions regarding the position of Taiwan with regard to specialised multilateral fora, especially where Taiwan's practical participation is important to EU and global interests.

Japan

233. Close cooperation between the EU and Japan continued in 2007 culminating in the bilateral summit held in Berlin on 5 June. The event brought the agreement of the like-minded partners to increase cooperation in a number of fields such as energy and climate change, and sent a strong positive signal on those issues to the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm. The two sides also discussed a range of regional issues (Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Korean Peninsula, etc).

The EU reiterated its wish to be more closely involved in the regional integration process in East Asia, and especially to be associated with the East Asia summit.

234. There has been progress in building the EU-Japan strategic partnership called for in the 2003 EU Security Strategy. Consultations and dialogue on international and global issues of common concern have deepened, including in the form of strategic dialogues on East Asia and Central Asia.
235. Moreover, 2007 also marked the first strategic exchange of views with Japan on South and South-East Asia.
236. A number of key themes will figure prominently on the agenda of the next EU-Japan Summit in 2008: climate change, energy efficiency and security, development policy and Africa, regional and security issues, and a number of bilateral co-operation issues.
237. EU and Japan will pursue wide-ranging discussions on international and regional issues: the Korean Peninsula (the denuclearisation process), Afghanistan (Japan's refuelling mission), China and cross-strait relations (the situation in the run-up to the Olympic games and the results of the Presidential elections in Taiwan), Iran, the Middle East, Central Asia (where the EU will seek closer co-operation along the lines of the EU strategy), Pakistan and Burma.

Korean Peninsula

238. The EU continued to pursue its objective of contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and attached the utmost importance to progress on regional stability and non-proliferation issues, in particular denuclearisation. The EU has repeatedly expressed strong support for the Six Party Talks process. In this context, the Council adopted a Joint Action in support of the IAEA monitoring and verification activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in November 2007, the financial contribution being in the order of EUR 1.7 million.
239. The EU has also implemented sanctions against the DPRK, including a specific ban on the export of dual-use goods and technology that could contribute to WMD programmes, as a specific instrument in support of the international community's non-proliferation efforts.

240. The EU has repeatedly expressed strong support for the Six Party Talks process and has welcomed the last inter-Korean summit and the steps taken towards inter-Korean reconciliation.
241. The EU troika (regional director level) had two rounds of talks in Pyongyang in 2007, covering denuclearisation/weapons of mass destruction; regional stability; human rights; economic and social situation; and future prospects for EU-DPRK relations. The EU troika strongly encouraged the DPRK to build on the recent positive momentum in the Six Party Talks, insisted strongly on the obligation for the DPRK to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and urged Pyongyang to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate with UN mechanisms.
242. The EU has repeatedly voiced its concern in international fora, urging the DPRK to improve its human rights record. In the last UNGA III Committee the specific resolution co-sponsored by the EU was adopted by a comfortable margin.
243. Since economic and political engagement are likely to be more effective tools for bringing about lasting change than isolation, the EU will be ready to step up its engagement with the DPRK, albeit cautiously and conditionally, in line with progress on the nuclear and human rights issues and on other issues of international concern.
244. Once the hoped-for progress on the nuclear issue materialises and the DPRK is engaged positively on human rights, the EU should be open to discuss possibilities and scope for moving from humanitarian towards development assistance.

South East Asia

Burma/Myanmar

245. Burma/Myanmar received particular attention in 2007 owing to the violent repression of peaceful demonstrations in August and September. The EU issued Council conclusions condemning the violent repression and calling on the authorities to embark on an inclusive, comprehensive process of national reconciliation and political reform.

246. The EU also voiced support for UN Special Adviser Gambari, who visited Myanmar twice after the events. In addition, the EU called for the lifting of all restrictions placed on Mrs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, improved access for international agencies and greater cooperation by the Burmese authorities with international actors on humanitarian and development issues.
247. The EU supported the UN Security Council consultations and the Presidential statement of 11 October. The EU participates in the UN "Group of Friends", inaugurated on 19 December. The issue was raised in all bilateral meetings with Asian partners, in particular at the Summits with ASEAN, China and India.
248. In November 2007 the EU appointed a Special Envoy (SE) for Burma/Myanmar – Mr Piero Fassino - in order to bundle the support for the UN. In his first months in office, SE Fassino has met with Asian partners and has undertaken trips to the region. He is also reaching out to civil society and think tanks.
249. The Member States and the European Commission have increased their humanitarian assistance to the country and also raised contributions to health and education programmes. Assistance has to be kept very limited, however, as long as the Burmese authorities refuse to open up and to cooperate fully.
250. On 19 November 2007 the EU adopted stronger sanctions with Common Position 2007/750/CFSP⁵⁸, which explicitly targets (RO) the exploitation of natural resources that profit the authorities, the military and associated persons, responsible for the September events and the stalemate in that country. The EU will examine further restrictive measures.

South Asia

Afghanistan

251. The EU's role in Afghanistan expanded dramatically with the launch of the ESDP Police Mission linked to the wider rule of law for Afghanistan, EUPOL Afghanistan.

⁵⁸ OJ L 308, 24.11.2007, p. 1.

The mission was launched in mid-June 2007 and, while it faced significant logistical and procurement challenges during its setup phase, deployment will build up to its full strength of over 200 persons, including police, justice and rule of law advisers by Spring 2008.

252. EUPOL Afghanistan has deployed across Afghanistan: mentors and advisers will work at central, regional and provincial levels with the objective of significantly contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, under Afghan ownership, to ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system.
253. Furthermore, EUPOL supports the reform process towards a trusted and efficient police service, which works in accordance with international standards, within the framework of the rule of law, and respects human rights. In addition, the mission aims to improve coordination and cohesion on police reform amongst the international community and to support increased Afghan ownership of reforms. EUPOL will consider further enhancement of its engagement, particularly in the field of police and wider rule of law.
254. Apart from EUPOL, the EU remained firmly committed in Afghanistan. The EU-Afghanistan Foreign Ministers troika was held in Berlin on 29 January 2007. The EU-Afghanistan Foreign Ministers troika was held in Ljubljana on 21 February 2008. On those occasions, the EU reaffirmed its long-term support for the Government and people of Afghanistan, and underlined the EU's commitment to securing stability and democracy in the country. The EU remains committed to working with the Afghan Government to ensure free and fair elections are held in 2009/10. The SG/HR met with Afghan officials on several occasions, most notably at the G8 Foreign Ministers meeting and in the margins of the UN General Assembly. Afghanistan also featured prominently on the agenda of the SG/HR during his trip to Central Asia, last October. The messages on those occasions have been consistent in their support of the Government and people of Afghanistan, underlining the EU's long-term commitment to the cause of stability and democracy in the country, while recognising the challenges ahead, particularly in the fields of counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics.
255. For 2008 the messages and challenges have not changed. Increased EU commitment through EUPOL Afghanistan will be matched by ongoing political commitment. The human rights situation in Afghanistan will continue to be a prominent part of our discussions.

Separate issues such as counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics will continue to be dealt with in the relevant Council bodies, including meetings with Afghan counterparts. Afghanistan will again feature prominently on the agenda of EU meetings with relevant third parties, in particular the upcoming Foreign Ministers troika with Pakistan. Furthermore, Afghanistan continues to be a prominent issue across the board in the dialogue with our strategic partners.

Pakistan

256. The first regular EU-Pakistan Foreign Ministers Troika was held in Berlin on 8 February 2007. On that occasion, a Joint Declaration on EU-Pakistan relations was adopted, calling for intensified contacts in a number of areas, including counter-terrorism, non-proliferation and counter-narcotics. The first joint commission with Pakistan under the 3rd generation cooperation agreement took place in Islamabad on 24 May. The SG/HR met the Pakistani Prime-Minister on his visit to Brussels in January and had bilateral talks with the Pakistani MFA in the margins of the ASEAN Regional Forum in July. At the beginning of March the Political Directors Troika visited Pakistan.⁵⁹
257. Developments in Pakistan and, in particular, the deepening of the political crisis and emergency rule which culminated in the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, were closely followed by the Council, in particular through high-level contacts with Pakistani authorities and through statements and declarations. After the death of Ms Bhutto, the SG/HR sent a letter to President Musharraf urging him to continue the process of political reconciliation in Pakistan.
258. The general elections on 18 February 2008 were competitive despite significant problems. The deployment of the EU Election Observation Mission ensured a prominent EU role on the ground and high visibility, and they played an important role in improving the transparency of the election process. During a visit by President Musharraf to Brussels in January 2008, the SG/HR also delivered messages on the need to conduct the elections freely and fairly. The next EU-Pakistan Foreign Ministers Troika will provide an opportunity for discussion of the future of EU-Pakistani relations in the light of developments after the elections.

⁵⁹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Kashmir: present situation and future prospects on 24 May 2007 on the basis of the report by the Foreign Affairs Committee.

India

259. 2007 marked the 60th year of India's independence and the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, so this was a natural time for both sides to take stock of their relations after several years of rapid and substantial developments. Following major announcements in 2004 (Strategic Partnership), 2005 (Joint Action Plan) and 2006 (the decision to move towards negotiation on a broad-based trade and investment agreement), in 2007 the accent was on implementing existing commitments.
260. As in previous years, the relationship moved forward through regular meetings at all levels. The EU-India security dialogue was held in Berlin on 2 May 2007; the Ministerial Troika meeting was held in Berlin on 31 May, and the Summit was held in New Delhi on 30 November 2007. All of these meetings produced good exchanges, but the excellent atmosphere at the summit was particularly noteworthy, offering the prospect of continuing progress in years to come.
261. Through their dialogue, the EU and India are developing an understanding allowing for greater concentration in international and multilateral settings. This process received a particular boost when the EU was accepted as an observer by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which opened the way for the EU to attend the Summit in New Delhi on 3 and 4 April 2007 under Indian chairmanship. Both sides hope that this will lead to enhanced cooperation.
262. Looking ahead to 2008, the EU and India are due to make an overall assessment of their Joint Action Plan, as foreseen since its inception in 2005. On this occasion, they will assess ways and means of further upgrading the overall framework of EU-India relations. In particular, the EU looks forward to advancing the ongoing discussions that it has with India about issues of common concern including climate change, energy, human rights, peace-building, non-proliferation and counter-terrorism.

Situation in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

263. The EU has been following developments in Bangladesh particularly closely since the imposition of a state of emergency there on 11 January 2007. In June 2007 the Council sent a second Troika of EU regional directors to Dhaka.

The fundamental aim of that visit was to express strong EU support for efforts to institute political and electoral reforms in Bangladesh. The EU welcomes efforts by the Caretaker Government and the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC) to create appropriate conditions for the holding of free and fair elections in 2008, and stands ready to send an electoral observation mission, as and when conditions allow.

264. The EU maintains a longstanding interest in Nepal. Most recently, that has resulted in the Council's sending a fourth Troika of EU regional directors to Kathmandu in December 2007. That visit was driven by a real will to offer continuing support to the people of Nepal after years of conflict. It is welcomed that a date (10 April 2008) has now been set for elections to a Constituent Assembly. The EU deployed an electoral observation mission to support that process. The EU will continue to urge all parties to ensure that inclusive, credible, free and fair elections, open to all and without intimidation throughout Nepal, including the Tarai region, can be held.
265. Throughout 2007 the EU followed the deteriorating situation in Sri Lanka with mounting concern. As in previous years, the EU offered full support to Norway (as facilitator of the peace process), but as 2007 ended it was clear that the outlook for those efforts was increasingly bleak.
266. With the abrogation by the government of the 2002 ceasefire agreement, the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission has had to withdraw. Meanwhile, the EU has been concerned by the escalation of violence on the part of both the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The EU appealed to both parties to the conflict to put an end to their hostilities in 2008.

CHAPTER 8 - LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Regional approaches

267. Both sides have started to prepare the fifth EU-Latin America/Caribbean (EU-LAC) summit to be held in Lima in May 2008, which will deal with the following items:

- poverty, inequality and inclusion;
- sustainable development: environment, climate change, energy.

They also agreed and welcomed a series of preparatory and parallel events, and underlined the importance of the Euro-Latin America Parliamentary Assembly.

268. At their thirteenth Ministerial meeting in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic in April 2007, the Foreign Ministers of the EU and the RIO Group discussed possibilities for strengthening their cooperation on energy and the environment and on the special problems of middle-income countries. They launched a discussion on making EU-RIO Group meetings more efficient, inter alia at sub ministerial levels, possibly through coordination with the EU-LAC process.

269. In April 2007, the Council adopted negotiating directives for an Association Agreement with the Andean Community and its member countries, as already concluded between the EU and Mexico and Chile, and under negotiation with Mercosur.

270. The major purposes of the agreement are to:

- develop relations and mutual benefits by providing a comprehensive, balanced and forward-looking perspective;
- develop a privileged political partnership based on respect for and the promotion of human rights, democracy and good governance, and on defending those common values on the world stage, while contributing to the development of multilateralism;
- foster further intra-regional links, enhance cooperation to reinforce the political, social and economic stability of the Andean Community countries, deepen regional integration, help to create conditions for the reduction of poverty, promote decent work and more equitable access to social services, and contribute to a sustainable development context;

- bolster good-neighbourly relations and the principles of peaceful resolution of disputes;
- take into account asymmetries where necessary, while limiting to a minimum differentiation of commitments between Andean Community countries.

271. On the basis of those directives, the first two negotiation rounds were held in 2007, in Bogotá from 17 to 20 September, and in Brussels from 10 to 14 December. A third round is planned for Quito in April 2008. The rounds were held in a constructive spirit, and it was possible to allay initial concern voiced by some Andean countries. Important progress was made on the "General and institutional provisions" and "political dialogue" aspects on the basis of the 2003 agreement.

272. In April 2007 the Council adopted negotiating directives for an Association Agreement between the European Community and its Member States and Central America. The Association Agreement is envisaged as a comprehensive agreement, embracing the whole array of the EU's relations with Central America. Its objective is to enhance the political dialogue between both regions, intensify and improve their cooperation in a variety of areas, and to enhance and facilitate bi-regional economic links, including trade and investment. On the basis of the negotiating directives, the first negotiation round was held in San José (Costa Rica) from 22 to 26 October 2007. The second round will be held in Brussels from 25 to 29 February.

Cuba

273. In its conclusions of 18 June 2007 (10657/07, p. 7), the Council underlined the need for political and economic reforms to improve the daily life of the Cuban people.

While there are fewer political prisoners and acts of harassment, the Cuban Government, as a member of the Human Rights Council, should release all political prisoners unconditionally. That issue constitutes a key priority in the EU's policy towards Cuba. The EU also reiterates its call to grant freedom of information and expression.

274. The EU will continue its dialogue with Cuba's civil society and support for all those committed to freedom, democracy and respect for universal human rights on a non-violent basis. The Common Position of 1996 remains valid with regard to all its goals and instruments. The EU recognises the right of Cubans to decide on their future independently and remains ready to contribute positively to the future development of all sectors of Cuban society, inter alia through development cooperation.
275. The EU is ready to resume a comprehensive and open political dialogue with the Cuban authorities on all topics, including the whole range of potential fields of co-operation and the political, human rights, economic, scientific and cultural spheres. In this context, the EU will outline to the Cuban Government its views on democracy, universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. To sound out the possibility for resuming dialogue, a Cuban delegation was invited to Brussels. An informal meeting between the EU Troika and the Cuban MFA took place in late September in the margins of UNGA. The EU recalled its positions, and invited Cuba also to be open to a comprehensive dialogue without any exclusions or conditions. Relations with and the situation in Cuba were also discussed in meetings with major EU partners in the Americas.

Brazil

276. Over the last few years, Brazil has become an increasingly significant global player. Because of its political and economic weight, Brazil is a major player in the Latin American and the Caribbean regions, as well as a key actor in regional integration processes. The EU has a strong interest in strengthening its dialogue with Brazil. In the past, contacts at the highest level have taken place primarily through the Mercosur regional forum, during the biannual EU-Latin America/Caribbean summits. Nevertheless, the recent intensification and diversification of bilateral EU-Brazil relations (through the EU-Brazil Joint Committees and the reinforced political consultations under the 1992 Framework Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil) require a global, coherent and coordinated framework for their conduct. To that end, on the occasion of the first EU-Brazil summit held in Lisbon on 4 July 2007, a strategic partnership was launched, embracing bilateral, regional and global issues in a comprehensive manner.

That involves commitments to deepen mutual understanding, to expand common ground, and to enhance cooperation and dialogue in areas of mutual interest. It is also expected that it will boost bi-regional relations between the EU and Latin America, especially the negotiations with Mercosur.

277. An Action Plan needs to be prepared jointly by the EU and Brazil, in order to implement the objectives of the partnership.

PART II - CFSP and ESDP - HORIZONTAL PRIORITIES

CHAPTER 1 - COUNTER TERRORISM

Implementing EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy

278. 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 that end, the EU adopted a Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment in December 2005. In 2007 the EU continued to implement that Strategy.⁶⁰
279. The EU continued to work on its multi-pronged exercise of counter-terrorism technical assistance to Morocco and Algeria. The programme covers, in particular, the prevention of radicalisation among prison inmates and measures to counter radicalisation and recruitment through the internet. In addition, the rehabilitation of convicted terrorists in prisons was an important theme in an EU-Indonesian seminar (4 to 5 September 2007), organised to facilitate the identification of themes for future technical assistance.
280. The Council Press Service made active use of a series of key messages drawn up to communicate effectively with regard to policies that may have a bearing on radicalisation. Most Member States and the Commission report that they have circulated the key messages to spokespeople in relevant government services.
281. The Union continued to work to enhance its counter-terrorism efforts by strengthening the international framework for the fight against terrorism. The EU also continued to encourage partners to ratify and implement the UN Conventions and Protocols pertaining to the fight against terrorism and to carry out the provisions of the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The EU Presidency undertook a first stocktaking of EU implementation of the Global CT Strategy with a view to the first informal review in New York (December 2007).

⁶⁰ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the fight against terrorism on 12 December 2007.

282. A joint seminar of the two Council counter-terrorism working parties on the prevention of the radicalisation of youth in the context of education was held on 11 September 2007. The working parties are currently reflecting on the follow-up, including the development of a network of mainstream Muslim voices to counter extremist propaganda.
283. Over the last twelve months, the Council has made progress in the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment. In 2008, the Council will ensure follow-up to all the actions listed above. The EU plans to study additional opportunities for cooperation with relevant UN agencies and share its experiences and best practices with partners. The EU will give active consideration to the integration of projects to counter radicalisation in external assistance programmes. The EU will also continue to reflect on the way in which it communicates values and policies that may have a bearing on radicalisation processes.
284. In this context, it should be mentioned that the European Parliament and the Council have decided to make 2008 the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. In recent months, the EU has already stepped up its efforts to facilitate inter-cultural dialogue in various fora.

Working Party on the implementation of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism

285. During the first half of 2007 the Council conducted a thorough review and consolidation of its procedures for the listing and de-listing of persons, groups and entities pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001.
286. As a result of that review, concrete improvements have been agreed on in order to establish a clearer and more transparent procedure. Improvements include statements of reasons for persons, groups and entities subject to restrictive measures under Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 and letters of notification, where feasible, to inform them thereof.

287. A new working party, the "Working Party on the implementation of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism" (CP 931 Working Party) has been established and charged with examining proposals for listings and de-listings and with preparing the regular review of the list by the Council as provided for in Article 1(6) of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP.
288. The improved procedure for listing and de-listing represents an important step forward in ensuring fairness and transparency. The improved procedures were applied for the first time in 2007 with a view to the regular review, which concluded with the publication of the updated list in June. In April, the Council sent letters to the persons, groups and entities concerned, and a notice was published in the Official Journal for the attention of those persons, groups and entities for whom no postal address was available.
289. Several individuals and groups submitted observations and documents which were duly considered by the Council in the context of the review. The Council informed the persons and groups concerned of the outcome of the review through individual letters of notification, where feasible, and through a notice published in the Official Journal, after the publication of the list in June 2007.
290. Later in 2007, the Council carried out a further review which concluded with the publication of the list in December 2007. In so doing, it applied the same procedure as for the previous review and took into account observations submitted by those concerned.
291. It is expected that a new list will be published in June 2008 following the next regular review.
292. The EU also implements restrictive measures against terrorism and its financing, with a view to implementing UN Security Council resolution 1267 (1999), and related resolutions. Those "Al Qaida and Taliban sanctions" target individuals and entities associated with Al Qaida, Usama Ben Laden and the Taliban, as listed by the UN sanctions Committee.

Assistance to and political dialogue with third states

293. In 2007 the Council continued its efforts to implement the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As regards 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 continued the implementation of two programmes of technical assistance and took initial steps to launch a third programme. The EU continued its counter-terrorism dialogue, at both technical and political levels, with key partners such as Russia, Canada, Algeria, and in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The European Union continued its close cooperation and dialogue on counter-terrorism issues with the United States. The EU participated in counter-terrorism meetings in the framework of regional organisations, such as the GCC, ARF and ASEM.
294. The provision of technical assistance programmes on counter-terrorism represents one of the key objectives of EU counter-terrorism policy. Important steps have been taken to expand EU technical assistance on CT 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.
295. The EU's counter-terrorism dialogue with a substantial number of third countries remains an important tool for the exchange of views and experience, 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. 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 Commission will ensure that funds under the new Instrument for Stability are used in a way that takes into account the EU counter-terrorism priorities.

EU-UN cooperation

296. The EU continued to promote the key role of the UN in mobilising the international community against terrorism. The EU actively contributed to the implementation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which reflects the priorities of the EU's own Strategy.

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 counter-terrorism agreements and contribute to a deeper international consensus on the normative framework for the fight against terrorism. The European Union worked to achieve an international consensus on the Comprehensive Convention in 2007 and will continue to work towards a swift conclusion of the negotiations.

297. At bilateral and multilateral meetings with third countries, the EU actively promoted the ratification and full implementation, without unlawful reservations, of all sixteen international counter-terrorism Conventions and Protocols.
298. The adoption by consensus of a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes an important success in the fight against terrorism. Implementation of the UN CT Strategy at EU level will remain a priority for the Union in the future, taking into account the first formal review of the Strategy, which will take place in the second half of 2008.
299. 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.

CHAPTER 2 - NON-PROLIFERATION / DISARMAMENT / ARMS TRADE

Implementation of the EU WMD strategy

Support for effective multilateralism

300. Effective multilateralism is a major guideline in the implementation of the EU Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) strategy.

Nuclear:

301. On 28 June 2007 the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/468/CFSP⁶¹ on support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in order to strengthen its monitoring and verification capabilities.

⁶¹ OJ L 176, 6.7.2007.

Implementation of the projects (development of noble gas monitoring and on-site inspection field exercise) was launched during November 2007.

302. The implementation of Council Joint Action 2006/418/CFSP⁶² on EU support for the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), aimed at the enhancement of the protection of sensitive materials, the detection of and response to illicit trafficking, and legislative assistance for the implementation of the Additional Protocol, is under way. Countries of the Balkan region, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Mediterranean region and in Africa are the beneficiaries. Additional priorities, which have already been identified in the regions concerned, will be addressed during 2008. The EU is the major contributor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.
303. On 19 November 2007 the Council adopted a new Joint Action 2007/753/CFSP⁶³ on support for IAEA monitoring and verification activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).
304. That Joint Action is aimed at making a financial contribution allowing the IAEA to continue the monitoring of the shutdown of nuclear facilities in the DPRK.
305. The EU Member States, which are all parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), have continued their efforts to make progress in the ratification process and move to implementation of the amended CPPNM.
306. The implementation of Joint Action 2004/796/CFSP, adopted by the Council on 22 November 2004, which is aimed at improving physical protection at the Bochvar Nuclear Research Institute of the Russian Federal Agency for Atomic Energy in Moscow, is under way.

⁶² OJ L 165, 17.6.2006.

⁶³ OJ L 304, 22.11.2007.

Biological:

307. The EU endeavours to translate the successful outcome of the 2006 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) Review Conference into practice and, through diplomatic efforts and concrete assistance projects, supports the intersessional BTWC process. Based on its experience of the first Joint Action in support of the BTWC, the EU will push for new and creative approaches to expanding BTWC membership, improving the national implementation of the BTWC (esp. legislative implementation, CBMs, bio-safety and bio-security) and dynamising the intersessional process, *inter alia* by supporting the work of the BTWC Chair, the BTWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and the WHO.
308. Internally, the EU Member States will continue to implement the EU Action Plan on BTWC which contributes to greater transparency of BTWC implementation through regular delivery of their Confidence Building Measure reports and to support the UN Secretary General's mechanism for investigating cases of alleged use of BTW.
309. In the absence of an international organisation promoting the BTWC, the EU provided Peru with legislative assistance for national implementation of the BTWC through a Council Joint Action in support of the BTWC and held regional universalisation seminars for Latin America / Caribbean and Western / Central Africa. In addition, a Joint Action in support of WHO activities in the area of bio-safety and bio-security and in the framework of the EU WMD Strategy was prepared in 2007 for adoption in 2008. The intention is to contribute to a successful BTWC intersessional process and to national implementation of the BTWC.

Chemical:

310. The implementation of Joint Action 2005/913/CFSP in support of OPCW activities, which was adopted in December 2005, ended in November 2007. In 2007, within the framework of the EU contribution, a seminar was organised in June 2007 in Algiers in order to promote awareness of the Convention among States in Africa.

The project also allowed for implementation of the capacity-building projects presented by national authorities from Azerbaijan, Benin, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Gabon, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Uruguay. Furthermore, selected laboratories in Eritrea, Bangladesh, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Peru and Ghana have received specific equipment under the International Cooperation Laboratory Assistance component of this Council Joint Action.

311. Council Joint Action 2007/185/CFSP will provide sustained technical support to States Parties that request it for the establishment and effective functioning of national authorities, and for outreaching activities to local Parliaments. Furthermore it will, *inter alia*, strengthen the States Parties' capacities to respond and develop assistance and protection programmes against chemical weapons.
312. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2007, the European Union Member States and the Council Secretariat have contributed to the organisation of a series of commemorative events during the second half of 2007. The support given by the EU to the OPCW activities was highlighted in the interventions made by the EU Presidency and by the SG/HR's Personal Representative on non-proliferation.
313. On 28 June 2007 the Council adopted an EU Common Position relating to the 2008 Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (2007/469/CFSP).⁶⁴

Support for the UN:

314. On 16 June 2006 the Council adopted a Joint Action in support of the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004). That Joint Action co-financed awareness-raising regional seminars for the Asia-Pacific, African and Latin America-Caribbean regions in 2006. Those regions are those most behind in terms of compliance with UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) obligations.

⁶⁴ OJ L 176, 6.7.2007.

Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC):

315. The HCOC is aimed at transparency and confidence building measures with respect to ballistic missiles.
316. The EU Presidency carried out demarches to Russia and the US to promote the effective national implementation of the Hague Code of Conduct.

Space issues:

317. The EU initiated work on a Code of Conduct for CBMs in Outer Space, to be submitted as a contribution to the discussions at the Conference of Disarmament on space issues. All major partners (Russia, China, US) are involved in the process.

Support for disarmament projects

318. Implementation of the Council Joint Action in support of chemical weapons destruction in the Russian Federation⁶⁵, which provides funding to complete the electricity supply infrastructure at the Shchuch'ye chemical weapons destruction facility, started in 2007, following the conclusion of the financial agreement between the United Kingdom Government and the European Commission in August. The project will contribute to the destruction of 1,9 million artillery and rocket munitions containing some 5 500 tonnes of nerve agents, which are stored at Shchuch'ye in the Russian Federation awaiting destruction.
319. This Joint Action forms part of the EU's fulfilment of its commitment under the Global Partnership and will complement and reinforce the value of the earlier project funded by the EU at Shchuch'ye. The financial reference amount is EUR 3 145 000.

⁶⁵ Council Joint Action 2001/178/CFSP.

Activities in the field of export controls

320. The EU continued its efforts to ensure that all the new Member States are included in export control regimes. However, the Plenary Meeting of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in November 2007 did not reach agreement on admission of the seven new EU Member States remaining outside the MTCR. The EU will continue to press for the admission of the new Member States with new demarches to relevant third countries. The MTCR Plenary endorsed the EU proposal for a MTCR Watchlist on Iran aiming at exercising vigilance for exports of listed items, in accordance with national legislation and international law.
321. Throughout 2007 the Council Working Party on Dual-Use Goods, under the leadership of the German and Portuguese Presidencies, examined the Commission's proposal for a recast Council Regulation setting up a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology (*16989/06*) which takes into account the recommendations of the Peer Review and the results of a subsequent impact assessment study, as well as the EU's obligations under UNSCR 1540. A sub-group of the Working Party has also been discussing the possibility of creating additional Community General Export Authorisations in order further to facilitate trade in certain listed dual-use goods to certain destinations. Discussions will continue under the Slovenian Presidency, and possibly beyond.
322. During 2007 the EU (through the German Export Control Office BAFA) organised export control seminars, both in Germany and the United Kingdom and in the recipient countries, for officials from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates. Core elements of the project work include the review and drafting of primary legislation and implementing regulations, licensing training for officers in charge of implementing the laws and regulations, training for customs offices, outreach to industry and awareness-raising and cooperation with the judicial sector.

Insertion of the WMD dimension into agreements or action plans with third countries

323. Negotiations on the inclusion of a WMD clause into agreements have been successfully completed with almost 90 countries (most recently, negotiations were concluded with South Africa, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina). Negotiations are ongoing with Thailand, China, Vietnam, the Andean Community and the Central American countries. Agreement on a standard WMD clause was reached with Ukraine and Iraq but negotiations are still ongoing on other issues; negotiations are expected to start with the Philippines, Brunei, MERCOSUR and Malaysia during 2008; draft negotiating mandates for Libya and South Korea will be submitted to the Council soon.
324. A WMD component has been added to Action Plans with Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, the Palestinian Authority, Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

WMD Monitoring Centre

325. On 11 and 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).

Iran

326. Efforts to work for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue continued throughout 2007. As a consequence of the Iranian refusal to comply with the request made in UNSC Resolution 1737, in particular the suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, on 24 March 2007 the UNSC adopted Resolution 1747, containing a series of sanctions targeting proliferation-sensitive areas in the nuclear and missile field.

Unfortunately, in spite of repeated diplomatic efforts by the EU SG/HR, Iran has not changed its course and has continued to expand its enrichment activities. While Iran has increased co-operation with the IAEA aimed at resolving past outstanding safeguards issues, there remains a substantial lack of confidence in the nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. Iran remains in breach of UNSC resolutions 1737 and 1747.

327. The EU has also imposed sanctions specifically targeted at Iran's nuclear and ballistic programmes, in line with the relevant UN resolutions, and as part of the international community's effort to apply pressure on Iran to comply with its non-proliferation obligations.
328. The EU remains committed to the package of incentives in the nuclear, economic and political fields developed by France, Germany and the United Kingdom, with the support of the EU SG/HR, as well as by China, Russia and the US, which the SG/HR presented to Iran in June 2006. This offer remains on the table. The EU's objective is to build a long-term relationship with Iran based on confidence and co-operation, but that depends on the progress on all issues of concern, first and foremost the nuclear issue, but also human rights and terrorism, Iran's approach to the Middle East peace process (MEPP) and regional issues.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

329. On 19 November 2007 the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/753/CFSP, which is aimed at supporting the IAEA monitoring and verification activities in the DPRK (financial contribution of approximately EUR 1,7 million). The EU has made it clear (most recently in December during a regional Directors' Troika visit to Pyongyang) that an improvement of EU-DPRK relations depends on wider political progress and in particular on positive developments on the nuclear issue.
330. The EU is implementing UNSC Resolution 1718, adopted by the UNSC in response to the nuclear test carried out by the DPRK on 9 October 2006. In accordance with Council Common Position 2007/762/CFSP, adopted on 22 November 2007, the EU has continued its participation in the KEDO and will continue to remain a member to preserve its interests in the KEDO during the winding-down of the organisation.

Dialogue with the European Parliament

331. In addition to the appearances of the Presidency and of SG/HR Solana, on a number of occasions the Personal Representative has briefed the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) on the implementation of the WMD Strategy, the diplomatic efforts vis-à-vis Iran and the DPRK issue.

EU ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF SALW, CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, ARMS EXPORTS

Implementation of the SALW strategy

332. During 2007 the EU continued to strengthen the coherence of its action with regard to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition. The EU contributed to the deliberations in multilateral fora on key issues on the SALW agenda, thus raising its visibility in multilateral processes, including the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects.

333. The EU gave heightened attention to the importance of stockpile management and security with regard to effectively combating the illegal proliferation of SALW and their ammunition, as well as to the issue of ammunition in developing an integrated response to the escalation of armed conflict and the spread of organised crime.

334. The EU has put the issue of regional cooperation on SALW on the agenda of the ASEAN Regional Forum, the African Union and included it in its dialogue with Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to advancing the global discussion on SALW and their ammunition through more concrete regional activities.

335. At the ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika meeting held in Luxembourg on 24 April 2007, a Joint Declaration on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) was issued in which both parties recognised that the proliferation of SALW and their ammunition constituted a serious problem, agreeing to enhance their cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating that proliferation through a series of specific measures.

336. During the 62nd UNGA 1st Committee, all EU Member States co-sponsored the resolution on "assistance to States for curbing illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them", tabled by Mali/ECOWAS, which was adopted by consensus. Also the resolution on "illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", tabled by Colombia, was co-sponsored by seventeen EU Member States and adopted with only one vote against and no abstentions.
337. In Ukraine, the European Union continued the implementation of its EUR 1 million contribution to the NATO Supply and Maintenance Agency (NAMSA) SALW destruction project⁶⁶. That project has allowed for the destruction of 17 710 SALW and the initial target of 20 000 SALW has been increased to 27 760 owing to the reduction in direct costs.
338. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the implementation of the last phase of the "Training the Trainers and Database" continued⁶⁷. That one-year project contributes to combating the destabilising accumulation of SALW in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project has so far trained more than 1.340 law enforcement officials in investigative techniques and is expected to train a total of 2.300 officials and also 180 parliamentarians by the end of the project. In addition, more than 180 parliamentarians and their advisors were also trained in a series of training courses and some installations and facilities are being constructed and refurbished to coordinate joint activities better. The EU contribution will amount to EUR 700 000.
339. The European Union took part in the closing ceremony of the NATO PfP Trust Fund project on the demilitarisation of SALW in Albania, which took place in Mjebes/Elbasan on 4 October 2007. The EU committed EUR 1 320 000 to that project, of which EUR 1 308 423 have been spent⁶⁸.
340. As regards future projects, in 2007 the Council carried out preparatory work concerning a Joint Action in support of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

⁶⁶ Council Decision 2005/852/CFSP.

⁶⁷ Council of Decision 2006/1000/CFSP.

⁶⁸ Council Decisions 2003/276/CFSP and 2004/790/CFSP.

This Joint Action will allow the EU to sponsor three regional seminars in Africa, Latin America and Asia to promote the International Marking and Tracing Instrument, organised by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in 2008. The EU contribution is expected to amount to EUR 300 000.

341. Finally, through enhanced coordination within the Council structures, EU Member States continued to work in the struggle against the illicit trafficking of SALW by air.

Other activities in the field of conventional weapons (under the European Security Strategy)

342. In July 2007 the Council adopted a Joint Action to promote the universality of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its annexed Protocols⁶⁹. That Joint Action allows for the organisation of six seminars in various regions of the world: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and the Middle-East starting in early 2008. The United Nations Office for Disarmament has been entrusted with the implementation of that Joint Action. The main objectives of the seminar will be to promote the universality of the CCW and strengthen its implementation through accession to the Convention and its Protocols. The seminars will also serve as regional fora for the exchange of ideas, experience and lessons learned in addressing related disarmament matters. The total EU contribution amounts to EUR 828 000.

343. In 2007 the Council carried out preparatory work for the adoption of a Joint Action in support of the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Landmines and on their Destruction. That draft Joint Action is aimed at promoting the universalisation and full implementation of the Convention and to assist and support the preparation of the Second Review Conference in 2009.

⁶⁹ Council Joint Action 2007/528/CFSP, OJ L 194, 26.7.2007, p. 110.

Arms exports

344. In the ninth year of operation of the European Code of Conduct, the quality and the 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 the convergence of national procedures and policies based on the Code. Work has been carried forward, *inter alia*, in the following areas:
345. 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. In addition to establishing the methodology for the exchange of information among Member States concerning the notification of export licence denials and consultations concerning such denials via a secure electronic system, it sets out, *inter alia*, agreed best practices in the area of end-user certificates and best practices for interpretation of all eight criteria of the Code, identifying factors to be considered when assessing export licence applications.
346. During 2007 (in accordance with the mechanism agreed in 2004) the Presidency co-hosted two outreach seminars for countries of the Western Balkans on the control of exports of conventional arms: in May (in Zagreb) and in December (in Belgrade).
347. The Common Military List of the European Union has been updated to take account of changes agreed in the Wassenaar Arrangement's Munitions List in December 2006, and was published in March 2007⁷⁰.
348. Having 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", the European Union and its Member States have continued their efforts to promote agreement on a future treaty (cf. Council conclusions of 17 June 2007 and 10 December 2007).

⁷⁰ OJ L 88 of 29.3.2007, page 58

349. COARM continued to follow closely the development of the European Commission's initiative concerning the facilitation of Intra-Community Transfers of defence-related products, noting the need to remain aware that military items cannot be considered in the same way as most commercial items and taking into account the problem of possible re-export to third countries. The Commission submitted a proposal on this issue on 5 December 2007.
350. Pursuant to the agreement reached at the December 2005 COARM meeting that each Presidency should endeavour to have a dialogue with the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) to brief it on COARM activities, the Chairperson of COARM visited the European Parliament twice in 2007 for an exchange of views. In the same spirit, the COARM Chairperson invited Mr Raoul Romeva, MEP, Rapporteur on the 7th and 8th Annual Reports on the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, to informal meetings with COARM delegates.

CHAPTER 3 - EARLY WARNING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Early warning

351. Early warning and subsequent early action are at the heart of the European Union's conflict prevention efforts. In order to be able to respond and assist in time, the EU monitors countries, regions and/or conflicts. The Watchlist, the confidential early warning document of the European Union, is regularly updated twice a year, taking into account political and security developments. It ensures good cooperation and coordination between the Council, the Commission and the Member States and has been enhanced by in-depth information sharing. Efforts have continued to refine further the early warning methodology as well as risk assessments supporting the political decision-making process. In preparing the risk assessments, open source intelligence has been used to an increasing extent.

352. The Council Secretariat and the Member States contributed to the Commission developing new country and regional strategy papers for the period 2007-2013. Conflict prevention and peace building have been given high priority in many strategies. With the help of a checklist of root causes pertinent conflict prevention actions were identified.
353. The EU Joint Situation Centre (SITCEN) continued to contribute to the early warning work of the Council supporting, *inter alia*, work on conflict prevention. In addition to its watch keeping and early reaction capacity, it undertook situation and risk assessment, issuing more than 150 reports to Council bodies and to Member States through PSC ambassadors, on major issues in the field of CFSP, ESDP and the threat posed to the Union by proliferation and terrorism. The SITCEN is assisted in its work by the secondment of national experts in analytical functions, who work together with Council officials. It benefits from exchanges of analysis with the Member States, including their diplomatic, intelligence and security services. Since January 2007, its assessment work has been undertaken jointly with the Intelligence Division of the EU Military Staff under a "Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity" (SIAC) arrangement. The SIAC work programme is set each semester in agreement with each Presidency.

Annual conflict prevention report

354. In 2007, conflict prevention continued to be a key EU objective. The Annual Report adopted by the European Council in June 2007 on EU activities in the framework of conflict prevention ("the Göteborg Report") provides a comprehensive picture of the European Union's ongoing efforts in this field.
355. The continuous enhancement of EU diplomatic efforts (for example in the Middle East, Western Balkans, East and Central Asia, South Caucasus, Great Lakes, the DRC, Sudan, Burma/Myanmar), the increase in civilian and military crisis management operations, projects in Security Sector Reform and the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of former combatants (most recently in Guinea-Bissau), the new Instrument for Stability and the joint EU-Africa strategy adopted last December are important assets in the provision of a more flexible and rapid response to pre- and post-crisis situations.

356. The EU continued to address global risks, inter alia in the field of energy, climate change, terrorism, organised crime, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and that of small arms and light weapons.
357. In the reporting period substantive progress was made towards a more coherent and effective EU approach to the prevention of violent conflict. Close cooperation continued between the Council/Member States and the Commission in support of CFSP conflict-prevention objectives, including the EU Border Assessment Missions in Rafah and in the Republic of Moldova, EUPOL COPPS in the Palestinian Territories and in preparation for the mission in Kosovo.
358. Steps have been taken to strengthen further the cross-pillar approach to conflict prevention by addressing the security-development nexus and fragile-state situations, carrying out joint Council-Commission assessment missions and strengthening planning activities through the ongoing development of Civilian Response Teams.
359. In 2007, the EU paid particular attention to enhanced cooperation with other major actors in conflict prevention such as international organisations, in particular the UN, NATO, OSCE, ASEAN and the African Union.
360. Co-operation increased with bilateral partners such as Canada, China, Japan, Russia and the US. That cooperation has covered a wide variety of activities, including the sharing of information, desk-to-desk dialogues, cooperation in the field, the financing of capacity building, and the planning and management of Peace Support Operations.
361. Particular attention has been paid to cooperation with NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) and CSOs (Civil Society Organisations). A series of workshops and conferences examined possibilities for enhancing cooperation between the EU and NGOs/CSOs in the fields of sharing information, awareness raising, training and promoting cooperation with other international organisations and major global partners.

362. In 2008, further efforts are needed to promote the culture of prevention, promote the sharing of analysis, improve the link of early warning to early action, strengthen capacity-building in Member States and step up cooperation with international partners, including non-state actors.

CHAPTER 4 - PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Priorities

363. The European Union continued to play an active role in promoting respect for human rights and addressing human rights violations worldwide. The EU has increasingly mainstreamed the human rights dimension into its general foreign policy instruments. As far as the priorities are concerned, the EU has started the process of reviewing the Guidelines and taken measures to strengthen further the implementation of the Guidelines. On 10 December 2007 the Council adopted conclusions and the Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child. In the first semester of 2007, the EU agreed and carried out an "Action Plan 2007" concerning the implementation of the EU Guidelines on the death penalty. In addition, and in line with the minimum standards defined by the EU Guidelines on the death penalty, the EU carried out demarches on individual cases in third countries. During the second half of the year the second review of the Guidelines on torture and other cruel and degrading treatments was started. With regard to the Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict, the EU continued to give great importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of children in general and to children and armed conflict in particular.

364. During the first half of 2007 local implementation strategies for support of the work of human rights defenders by EU missions in third countries were elaborated. Those strategies are increasingly being put into practice.

365. The European Union has established some thirty human rights dialogues, consultations and dedicated discussions with third countries.⁷¹
366. Since September 2007 the Council has been reflecting on how to make the dialogues more effective. In this context the Secretariat of the Council and the Commission are preparing a paper on EU human rights dialogues with third countries. On 19 September 2007 an African Union Troika and the COHOM Troika had a first senior officials meeting on human rights in Brussels. The EU-AU human rights dialogue is meant to be an integral part of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership. That was the first time that the EU as an entity entered into a human rights dialogue with another entity, other than a state.
367. As far as the human rights dialogue with Central Asia is concerned, the European Union remained committed to working for a concrete improvement in the human rights situation in the five Central Asian Republics. In line with the Strategy for a new Partnership with Central Asia, which provides for the establishment of a "regular, result-oriented Human Rights Dialogue with each of the Central Asian states", the first round of the human rights dialogue with Uzbekistan took place and the discussion on the holding of a civil society seminar continued. As regards Turkmenistan, the European Union continued its efforts to bring the Ad-hoc human rights Dialogue with Turkmenistan into line with the structure of other official human rights dialogues. Detailed discussions took place at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue rounds on May and October. Unfortunately, the expert legal seminars, which would normally precede these discussions, did not take place in this reporting period owing to China's objection to the participation of two NGOs. Two dialogue rounds (in May and October) were held in a positive atmosphere, providing a platform for a substantive and frank exchange of views between China and the EU on a wide range of human rights issues, including cases of individual concern.

⁷¹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Human Rights in the world 2006 and the EU's policy on the matter on 26 April 2007 on the basis of a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee and a resolution on the functioning of the human rights dialogues and consultations on human rights with third countries on 6 September 2007. A delegation from the EP visited the UN Human Rights Council in 2007.

368. Human rights also featured on the agenda of the EU-China summit in Beijing on 28 November and the Joint Statement explicitly refers to human rights. In October 2007 human rights talks with Russia took place in Brussels. The EU Troika raised a number of specific concerns about the human rights situation in Russia, in particular regarding freedom of expression and assembly, above all in the run-up to the parliamentary and presidential elections. 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.
369. The Union continued to attach great importance to economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to civil and political rights. That was underlined by the 9th EU-NGO Forum on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in European Union Policies which took place in Lisbon on 6 and 7 December 2007. The ninth edition brought together more than a hundred representatives of human rights NGOs and of EU Member States and institutions.
370. The Lisbon Treaty, signed on 13 December 2007, provides that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union shall have the same legal value as the Treaties (TEU and TFEU). The Charter reaffirms the rights, freedoms and principles recognised in the Union, and makes those rights more visible.

EU acting within UN Human Rights Council and Third Committee

371. By mid-year of the period under review, the Human Rights Council (HRC) had begun to consolidate itself, having adopted, for instance, an institutional-building package. The EU Member States have actively contributed to the work of this new institution, both in the institution-building debates and in the substantive discussions. The EU has learned that this new body is a challenge for us, but is confident that the results achieved will allow the HRC to develop into a credible and effective body able to fulfil all aspects of its mandate. A matter of particular importance on the agenda is now the agreed mechanism for a Universal Periodic Review of all UN Member States, which the EU hopes will ensure regular examination of the human rights record of each country.

372. In its annual declaration on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June 2007, the EU underlined the priority it attaches to the global eradication of torture and to the full rehabilitation of torture victims. The EU also seized the opportunity of the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the International Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) to urge States which were not yet parties to accede to the Convention without delay.
373. The EU was particularly active and successful during this year in the UNGA 62 Third Committee. In June 2007 the Council of the European Union decided that the EU would table a resolution against the death penalty at the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.
374. The resolution calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty was adopted by the UNGA Third Committee on 15 November 2007 with the support of 87 co-sponsors representing a wide cross-regional alliance.
375. In spite of the high priority given to the death penalty resolution, the EU maintained all the other traditional initiatives at the Third Committee, taking the lead this year in the Rights of the Child resolution and presenting two country resolutions on the human rights situation in the DPRK and in Burma/Myanmar. It co-tabled the US resolution on the human rights situation in Belarus and strongly supported the lobby efforts on the resolution on the human rights situation in Iran.
376. With regard to freedom of religion or belief, the EU promoted a resolution at UNGA 3C. The resolution was adopted by consensus, expressing strong support for the EU's balanced human rights approach. The EU further promoted a resolution at the sixth session of the HRC. With that resolution the mandate of the Special Rapporteur was renewed. This will continue to be a difficult and controversial topic in the UN context.

CHAPTER 5 - ENERGY SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy security

377. In 2007, energy security, recognised as a key challenge in the European Security Strategy, continued to grow in importance within the CFSP context. It should be noted, however, that the policy of the European Union focuses on the development of well-regulated markets, within and beyond its borders, as the best means of achieving energy security.⁷²
378. The most significant development institutionally was the establishment of the EU Network of Energy Security Correspondents, which has enhanced the EU's energy security through its continuous monitoring and exchange of information and increased cooperation between all EU energy actors. The appointment of Mr Jozias Van Aartsen as Coordinator for the Southern Gas Corridor is also significant. The EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) continued to provide important input into policy development, inter alia through the hosting of a workshop on energy security at its annual conference in November 2007.
379. Energy security has become an established item on the agenda of foreign policy meetings with third parties at all levels. In this respect, contacts with Brazil, Russia, India, China and Africa were of special importance. The strong commitment to Global Energy Security Principles stated at the Heiligendamm G8 Summit is also worth noting.
380. The adoption of the Central Asia Strategy and the Joint Africa Strategy marked the consolidation of an EU energy security strategy, in that both recognised the importance of these regions for Europe's energy security and set out a framework of cooperation for the development of their energy resources, infrastructure and markets.
381. The forthcoming period will see the enhancement and intensification of dialogue with third countries. The EU will continue to address issues which affect energy security, including those relating to the governance, stability and good neighbourly relations of States rich in energy resources.

⁷² The European Parliament adopted a resolution on towards a common European foreign policy on energy on 26 September 2007.

The EU will also continue to address challenges posed by the increasing use of non-traditional energy sources, including bio fuels, and of nuclear energy.

Climate change and security

382. In spring 2007 the European Council endorsed an ambitious climate and energy package, taking on strong commitments and sending a clear signal to the international community concerning our resolve in the fight against the adverse effects of climate change and the launching of negotiations on a post-2012 agreement. During the second half of the year, and in anticipation of the UNFCCC Conference in Bali⁷³, the subject gained further importance in foreign policy meetings. The European position was presented and discussed in bilateral political dialogue and policy meetings with partners as well as through the largest ever number of demarches on a single issue, arranged through the Green Diplomacy Network (GDN), and addressing over forty countries in the second half of 2007.
383. Apart from the implications for the world's environment and economy, 2007 has also seen another aspect of the reflection on climate change gaining recognition, namely its impact on international security and the likely unsettling consequences. In that connection, in June 2007 the European Council invited the SG/HR and the European Commission to present a joint report to the 2008 Spring European Council.
384. To help in its preparation, an informal workshop was co-organised in Brussels by the Commission and Council Secretariat on 13 September. That was an opportunity for Commission and Council staff to brainstorm with international organisations, NGOs, academic and other experts on climate change. European Parliament staff members were also invited.
385. The joint report by the SG/HR and the European Commission to the 2008 Spring European Council⁷⁴ highlights the significant implications climate change has for international security issues and underlines the threat these pose to Europe's foreign and security policy interests.

⁷³ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Bali Conference on Climate Change on 15 November 2007.

⁷⁴ "Climate change and international security" (7249/08).

The report considers how the full range of EU instruments, including Community and CFSP/ESDP action, can be used alongside mitigation and adaptation policies to address the security risks. This report marks a starting point for deeper EU engagement on climate change and security. It should act as a catalyst for the development of a better understanding of the implications of climate change for European foreign and security interests. The report is expected to lead to a more detailed, region-by-region analysis of the implications of climate change for EU foreign and security policy interests, and to explore how to mainstream climate change into security policy-making and planning.

PART III - CFSP and ESDP – INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

CHAPTER 1- CFSP and ESDP - INSTRUMENTS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

Cooperation with the European Parliament

386. The cooperation between the Council and the European Parliament in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is based on Article 21 of TEU⁷⁵ and their cooperation with regard to the CFSP budget on Articles 42 and 43 of the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and sound financial management⁷⁶, which entered into force on 1 January 2007.
387. Relations between the Council and the European Parliament as well as between the Council and national parliaments on foreign, security and defence issues are developing steadily. This development refers to the need for democratic control and scrutiny, as well as to the wish to gather public support and to give visibility to the solutions that the European Union must find to surmount the challenges which Europe and the international community face today.
388. In 2007 the Council continued its close interaction and partnership with the European Parliament in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy/European Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/ESDP). The Presidency of the Council and SG/HR Javier Solana regularly addressed the European Parliament at plenary and committee level. In addition, EUSRs and senior Council officials made regular appearances before the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) as well as before the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) and the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE).

⁷⁵ Art. 21 TEU: "The Presidency shall consult the European Parliament on the main aspects and the basic choices of the common foreign and security policy and shall ensure that the views of the European Parliament are duly taken into consideration. The European Parliament shall be kept regularly informed by the Presidency and the Commission of the development of the Union's foreign and security policy. The European Parliament may ask questions of the Council or make recommendations to it. It shall hold an annual debate on progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy."

⁷⁶ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management, Arts. 42, 43; OJ C 139, 14.6.2006.

389. To underscore the importance the SG/HR attaches to relations with the European Parliament and national parliaments, appointed a Personal Representative for Parliamentary Affairs in the field of CFSP, Mr Michael Matthiessen, on 29 January 2007.
390. In 2007, Council representatives appeared 197 times on various CFSP and ESDP related issues before the European Parliament⁷⁷. German and Portuguese Presidency representatives appeared in the area of CFSP/ESDP on 146 occasions, the SG/HR on five, EUSRs on fourteen, senior Council Secretariat officials on twenty-five and other senior officials on four.
391. In addition to his plenary and committee appearances, the SG/HR met the President of the European Parliament on bilaterally five occasions and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on two occasions. The SG/HR and senior Council Secretariat officials, including the SG/HR's Personal Representative for Parliamentary Affairs, met representatives of the political groups and individual MEPs on numerous occasions. Informal working lunches with members of the Council's Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the chairs of AFET, SEDE and DROI took place three times.
392. In the area of the European Security and Defence policy, the SG/HR twice briefed selected MEPs on developments, including operations. That was done through the Special Committee on sensitive information in the field of ESDP established by an Interinstitutional Agreement in 2002⁷⁸. The EU Operations Centre, which became operational on 1 January 2007, was visited on 6 June by the bureaux of the AFET Committee and SEDE Subcommittee and Special Committee members and on 11 September 2007 by the President of the European Parliament, Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering. The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee briefed the SEDE Subcommittee on ESDP-related questions and met the President of the European Parliament and the Chairman of AFET bilaterally.

⁷⁷ See 6112/08: Appearances by representatives of the Council in the European Parliament in the field of CFSP/ESDP in 2007.

⁷⁸ INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT between the European Parliament and the Council concerning access by the European Parliament to sensitive information of the Council in the field of security and defence policy; OJ C 298, 30.11.2002.

393. In the area of the CFSP budget, the chairman of the PSC met the members of the bureaux of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) simultaneously five times in order to brief them on CFSP developments as provided for in the Interinstitutional Agreement on the budget. Those meetings contributed to the reaching of agreement on the CFSP budget for 2008.

Crisis management

Civilian aspects

General trends

394. In recent years there have been significant developments in civilian crisis management. The number of missions has increased and the geographical spread of missions has grown (missions have been deployed in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the Western Balkans). Furthermore, civilian crisis management has been diversified, for example through the inclusion of new fields such as border management or support for Security Sector Reform (SSR), which are increasingly covered by ESDP missions. Finally, we have witnessed the development of integrated missions, covering not just one but several crisis management activities, e.g. activities in the area of police, rule of law and organised crime.

395. Given the number of conflicts world-wide that remain unresolved and a certain number of newly emerging (or renewed) conflict situations, it can be anticipated that these trends will continue and that there will be more and more demand for civilian crisis management missions. In the future we will probably experience a development of multi-dimensional missions with the need for greater coherence and coordination in the use of the various EU instruments on the ground. We can also anticipate greater cooperation between the EU and other international organisations, including regional organisations dealing with security issues (UN, NATO, OSCE, AU).

396. As a primary example, the EU-Africa Strategy recently adopted in Lisbon provides a framework for a new partnership between the EU and Africa in the domain of crisis management.

A joint EUSR office and European Commission Delegation to the African Union in Addis Ababa was established to strengthen the political dialogue with that organisation and to assist the African Union in developing its capabilities for crisis management, both military and civilian. The EU supports the creation of a continental African Peace and Security Architecture, including the establishment of the African Standby Force.

397. The EU is currently planning a cycle of training courses which will take place in the course of two years, culminating in a CPX exercise (in which planning and command post activities are exercised but no forces are deployed). These and the whole range of other activities provided for under the new strategy will strengthen EU-Africa partnership.
398. The EU will in future further develop its dialogue with NGOs and civil society organisations and enhance its cooperation with regional and international partners.
399. Human rights, gender issues and the protection of children in armed conflict will increasingly be mainstreamed into all ESDP activities, including concepts planning the operational conduct of missions and the lessons-learned process. Development in the near future will focus on this last area as well as on training in civilian crisis management.
400. Finally, greater consideration will have to be given in future to the resources (both human and financial resources) needed in civilian crisis management, if the above challenges are to be met.
401. The establishment in 2007 of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) improved the EU's crisis management structures.

Civilian Headline Goal

402. In accordance with the task assigned by the Council to the Portuguese Presidency in June 2007, the Civilian Headline Goal (CHG) 2008 was successfully concluded by EU Ministers gathering on 19 November 2007 at the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference. The Ministers adopted a Declaration, approved the Final Report on CHG 2008, agreed the new CHG 2010 and agreed a civilian ESDP capability planning process.

The CHG 2008 fulfilled its objectives and provided a sound basis for future capability-development efforts for civilian crisis management under ESDP. Among its achievements are the creation of a set of scenarios corresponding to possible future challenges for civilian ESDP, the advance appreciation of actual ESDP mission requirements, the production of a comprehensive reference list of civilian capabilities needed, the creation of a tool facilitating mission planning and recruitment, the preparation of recommendations and guidelines on the recruitment of personnel, and an increased awareness of Member States and potential contributors to ESDP action regarding the civilian dimension of ESDP. The CHG evaluation process was conducted with experts from non-EU States, International Organizations and NGOs, signalling the important contribution of those actors.

403. As ESDP ventures further afield and diversifies in its tasks and missions, there is a growing need for crisis management capabilities to allow the EU to respond to the whole spectrum of crisis management tasks, using all available means in a coherent and coordinated way.
404. The CHG 2010 is aimed at ensuring that the EU is able to conduct crisis management activities, in line with the European Security Strategy that is going to be reviewed, by deploying appropriate civilian capabilities in a timely manner. Among its main objectives are the improvement of the quality of civilian resources, the enhancement of their availability, and the achievement of synergies with the military ESDP capabilities, with the European Community and with third pillar actors, as well as the enhancement or strengthening of coordination and cooperation with external actors, as appropriate.
405. In April 2007, the Council Secretariat organized a first Civilian Headline Goal workshop with experts from non-EU States, International Organizations and NGOs, signalling the important contribution of those actors. The aim of that workshop was to exchange information concerning civilian crisis management-capability development, including best practices in the field of training, recruitment and the deployment of civilian crisis management personnel, and to identify areas for closer cooperation.

Training

406. With the increase and development of civilian crisis management operations, more attention was given to the need for the training of civilian staff for crisis management operations. Many Member States participated actively in the EC Project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management, considering it a very valuable additional element in the sense that it created a European forum for the exchange of views and best practices in the field of the EU's civilian crisis management. As that project ended in June 2007, the European Commission is currently taking the necessary steps to ensure appropriate follow-up activities from 2008 onwards. Member States and the staff in charge of ESDP missions were invited to take part in procurement training organised by the Commission.
407. With a view to launching a new ESDP mission in Kosovo, the Council Secretariat carried forward work to coordinate pre-mission training for key mission personnel. A comprehensive assessment of the training needs for the personnel of the future mission was financed by the European Commission.
408. With a view to assisting EU Member States, a Training Conference for training providers of EU Member States and third States was organised in Priština on 10 and 11 October 2007. It focused on the coordination of pre-mission training activities and ensuring the link between the pre-deployment training and the in-mission induction training.
409. Key-mission-personnel training for the future ESDP mission in Kosovo took place in Brussels, from 22 to 24 October 2007. Senior staff members who were going to work closest with the Head of ESDP mission in Kosovo took part in the training activity. The purpose of the training was to enable the key mission personnel, under the guidance of the Head of Mission designate, Mr Yves de Kermabon, to carry out the tasks specified in their job descriptions and to achieve the objectives of the future ESDP Mission in Kosovo, to be set out in the Joint Action for the ESDP Kosovo Mission.

Information Exchange Requirements

410. In February 2007, the Political and Security Committee took note of a methodology for the identification of Information Exchange Requirements (IER). In July 2007 the PSC took note of the work on the identification of Information Exchange Requirements (IER) including a Roadmap and a Global Overview aimed at defining operational requirements for the exchange of information between all entities, both civilian and military, that may interact in support of ESDP operations, with a view to a comprehensive approach. That work will continue, and will need to be undertaken in coordination with work on the ESDP Network-Enabled Capability (NEC). The establishment of IER will provide a reference point from which EU Network-Enabled Capability (NEC) activities can be built.

Procurement

411. The procedure for having recourse to the Preparatory Measures budget line within the CFSP budget was agreed in June 2007 and will significantly facilitate the preparation of future civilian ESDP missions by making funds available rapidly, in particular for the procurement of key equipment and the early deployment of key personnel.

412. The establishment of framework contracts in the field of procurement to ensure the availability of basic assets and services at mission launch continued. The contract notices for armoured and soft-skin vehicles were published, and will soon be followed by other contract notices, in the area of communications and information technology in particular.

413. The regime for international contracted staff for ESDP missions was thoroughly revised by means of the new Commission Communication on CFSP Special Advisers and related implementation tools. The new remuneration regime for international contracted staff enhances the attractiveness of ESDP missions as employers and thus helps ensure the early availability of essential mission-support personnel.

414. Work continued on the follow-up to the initial Mission Support Concept, both in the Council Secretariat and in the Commission, in particular through the provision of general assistance for missions in the form of improved recruitment channels and enhanced training opportunities for mission administration personnel. The Commission arranged for the advertisement of vacancies for international contracted staff positions on its EPSO website.

Civilian Response Teams

415. The implementation of the Civilian Response Teams (CRT) process continued, in particular through the refinement of deployment procedures. CRTs supported EUPM and the set-up of EUPOL Afghanistan. On the basis of an inventory of the CRT pool, an agreement was reached to replenish the pool with thirty more experts, to reach the sustainable target of a hundred experts and reinforce the pool in the field of mission support. The new members of the pool will be trained in 2008.

Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations

416. The EU's relationship and cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society also developed further. To enhance the dialogue between NGOs and the members of Council preparatory bodies, the Presidency regularly invited NGO representatives to give briefings to members of the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) in accordance with the Recommendations for Enhancing Cooperation with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations. Representatives from a variety of international NGOs (such as Swisspeace, Search for Common Ground, Amnesty International, International Centre for Transitional Justice, Saferworld, Interpeace and Nonviolent Peaceforce) gave briefings on Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, Kosovo, Bosnia and Guinea-Bissau and on civilian peacekeeping. Particular care was taken to ensure that NGO input would be given during the early stages of the planning phase for civilian ESDP missions.

417. A Conference on “Partners in Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management: EU and NGO Cooperation” was held in June. The conference brought together 150 leading representatives from NGOs and the EU.

In preparation for the conference, policy seminar entitled "Role of Civil Society - Learning from the Field" was organised, which brought together representatives from NGOs, EU Institutions, Permanent Representations of the Member States and Academia. The seminar focused on how to make EU-NGO cooperation effective in the field and on analysed case studies, but also provided a Headquarters and in-field perspective on ESDP missions and Community programmes.

List of missions

418. The following civilian missions⁷⁹ were operational in 2007 (further details are provided under the respective geographical subject heading):

Western Balkans

- European Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- European Union Planning Team (EUPT) in Kosovo.

Middle East

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

Africa

- The EU Police Mission in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL Kinshasa) ended on 30 June 2007.
- EU Police Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL RD Congo) launched on 1 July 2007.
- The EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS II (Sudan/Darfur) ended on 31 December 2007.

⁷⁹ 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).

Asia

- EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) launched on 15 June 2007.

Military aspects

A. General trends

419. In January 2007 the EU Operations Centre reached operational capability. It was activated for the first time during the EU's successful second military exercise in the framework of the ESDP (MILEX 07) in June 2007. MILEX 07 focused on the key military aspects of crisis management, and in particular on the interaction between the EU Operations Centre, composed of military and civilian elements, in Brussels and the EU Force Headquarters provided by Sweden. MILEX 07 represented a major step forward for the EU with the first activation of the EU Operations Centre.
420. In the light of the lessons learned from that exercise and from EUFOR RDC and at the Council's request, in November 2007 the SG/HR presented a report addressing the gaps in the EUMS ability to conduct planning at the strategic level for EU-led operations, which the Council welcomed and the recommendations of which it approved. The Council will return to this issue in 2008, including the need for any additional personnel, on the basis of an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the approved recommendations.
421. In September, the Council noted the Force Catalogue 2007, which presents Member States' contributions to the required military capabilities, as derived from the European Security Strategy and the Headline Goal 2010, and forwarded it to NATO for information purposes. Contributions from non-EU European NATO members and other countries that are candidates for accession to the EU are presented in a supplement to the Force Catalogue.
422. In November, the Council approved the Progress Catalogue 2007, which was also released to NATO. That Catalogue offers a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative picture of capability shortfalls, grouped by level of associated operational risk.

423. In June, the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency agreed a Methodology and a Roadmap for the Capability Development Plan (CDP).
424. Since 1 January 2007 two Battlegroups have been permanently on stand-by. At the last six-monthly Battlegroups Coordination Conference in October, Member States confirmed the fulfilment of the required commitments (two Battlegroups on standby per semester on a permanent basis) up to and including the first half of 2011, with one vacant slot in the second half of 2010. Work is ongoing on the standardisation of Battlegroup preparatory activities.
425. A Maritime Rapid Response Concept and an Air Rapid Response Concept were agreed in November and December respectively. Following a Tri-Presidency (DE-PT-SI) proposal, the EUMC agreed in December on a mandate and a methodology for reviewing the EU Military Rapid Response Concept by the end of 2008 in a joint perspective.
426. The EU is actively involved in the reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capabilities. This support contributes to the overall process of the creation of a continental African Peace and Security Architecture, including the establishment of the Africa Standby Force (ASF). The EU proposals, which were adopted by the Council in May, cover support for conflict prevention, training and exercises, operations, post-conflict reconstruction. In October 2007 the African Union, in close coordination with the United Nations and the Regional Economic Organisations, decided to include the EURO RECAMP cycle as a key element in the ASF Training Plan for the next two years. The implementation of the other proposals of the Action Plan, in particular EU support for African Centres of Excellence and support for ASF logistic capabilities, will constitute the next step in the implementation of the partnership between Africa and the EU in the framework of the development of African Peacekeeping Capabilities.

B. Operations and Missions

427. ALTHEA, the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was successfully reconfigured following the Council Decision of December 2006. The force comprises some 2500 troops, concentrated in Sarajevo, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves. Situational awareness is maintained through 45 Liaison and Observation Teams deployed across the country. ALTHEA continued to provide reassurance and remained ready to respond to security challenges throughout the country. The Council reviewed the operation on 10 December 2007 and stressed that the EU remained actively committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina, inter alia through Operation ALTHEA, and that the EU-led military presence would remain there for as long as necessary. The operation continued to work in close cooperation with other EU actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Cooperation with NATO also worked well in the context of the Berlin Plus arrangements.
428. During the second half of 2007, the EU started the planning of the military bridging operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA in Eastern Chad and North-eastern Central African Republic, decided on 15 October 2007 and launched on 28 January 2008. That operation, authorised by UNSC resolution 1778 (2007) as part of a multidimensional international presence which also includes a civilian UN Mission (MINURCAT), will contribute to the protection of civilians in danger, in particular displaced persons and refugees, to the facilitating of the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel and to the protection of UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment. It combines support in the military field with substantial EU action in the domain of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. The operation is commanded by General Patrick Nash (Ireland). EUFOR Tchad/RCA will be deployed for a period of one year from the date on which its initial operational capability is declared and will act with neutrality and impartiality. From the outset, the planning has been undertaken in very close coordination with the UN. A mid-mandate review after six months, conducted in conjunction with the UN, will assess the need for a possible UN follow-up capability.

429. EUSEC RD Congo has continued to provide technical assistance to help modernize the administration of the Congolese Ministry of Defence. This important project has achieved significant progress. Progress in the field of defence reform was delayed by the priority given by the Congolese authorities to addressing the source of instability in the east of the country. Following the successful conclusion of operation EUFOR RD Congo and the subsequent redeployment of all EUFOR forces from the area of operations, on 27 February 2007 the Council adopted a Joint Action⁸⁰ repealing Joint Action 2006/319/CFSP which launched the European Union military operation in support of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process.
430. On 29 June 2007, it was agreed to extend the EU civilian-military supporting action to the African Union (AU) mission in the Darfur region of Sudan (AMIS) for a further period of up to six months from 1 July 2007, subject to review. This covered pre-deployment training and military experts within the AU chain of command, along with financial and logistic support, inter alia in the area of strategic air transport in cooperation with NATO. The EU has also provided the second Vice-Chairman of the Cease-Fire Commission (CFC), an EU observer for the CFC and military observers. On 31 July 2007 (UNSCR 1769) the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of the joint UN/AU Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Accordingly, UNAMID assumed authority from AMIS (and AMIS was incorporated into UNAMID) on 1 January 2008. The EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS was completed - by the repeal of Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP⁸¹ - on 31 December 2007.
431. On 10 December 2007, the Council agreed the General Concept for an ESDP Mission to support security sector reform (SSR) in Guinea-Bissau. Subject to formal agreement from the Guinea-Bissau authorities, it is anticipated that the remaining planning, preparation and recruitment can be completed to allow the ESDP Mission, consisting of some fifteen senior advisers plus support staff, to deploy in April for an initial period of up to one year.

⁸⁰ OJ L 64, 02.03.2007, p. 44.

⁸¹ OJ L 346, 29.12.2007, p. 28.

The EU political objective is to achieve a sustainable security sector capable of responding to its society's security needs, including in the fight against drug trafficking which transits into Europe. The initial ESDP engagement will be limited in objective, time and resources, contributing to the creation of the conditions for full implementation of SSR. Part of this process will be contributing to a detailed needs assessment in an effort to facilitate much needed donor engagement.

432. Whether there is a role for ESDP support in the implementation phase itself remains to be determined as part of a mission review after six months. However, irrespective of whether ESDP engagement continues into the implementation phase, there will be a requirement for the substantial commitment of resources by the international community if SSR is to succeed.

Cooperation with international organisations

EU-UN

433. EU-UN cooperation in the field of crisis management continued to develop at the operational level, in particular in the context of the planning for Operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA, support for the AU mission in Darfur, Sudan (AMIS), including the implementation of the UN support package for AMIS and the preparation of the transition of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to an EU-led mission. The EU and UN also cooperated on the implementation of Lessons Identified from operation EUFOR RD Congo.
434. The EU and the UN continued to cooperate closely on other operational activities, including support for the development of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the establishment of an African-Stand-by-Force (ASF) and in the area of Security Sector Reform.
435. Meetings between representatives of EU and UN staff continued, *inter alia* through the consultative mechanism of the EU-UN Steering Committee (established by the 2003 Joint EU-UN Declaration on Cooperation in Crisis Management). In June 2007 the two organisations signed a Joint Statement on EU-UN Cooperation in Crisis Management in order to enhance mutual cooperation and coordination further. Implementation of a number of measures designed to achieve that aim is currently under-way.

EU-NATO

436. The EU and NATO continued to develop their strategic partnership in crisis management. Cooperation was facilitated by meetings between the SG/HR and NATO SG, regular EU-NATO staff-to-staff contacts, and by the permanent EU Cell at SHAPE and the permanent NATO liaison team at the EU Military Staff. Aspects of EU – NATO cooperation and the need for a pragmatic approach were also discussed by the Ministers on 19 November, particularly regarding in – theatre cooperation in Kosovo and Afghanistan.
437. In the area of operations, 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 in a smooth and satisfactory manner. The EU and NATO continued, moreover, to cooperate to ensure effective support for the AU Mission AMIS in Darfur, including through a joint airlift coordination cell in Addis Ababa. For the ESDP Police mission in Afghanistan, EU and NATO cooperate in the field. However, owing to the sensitivities of an ally within NATO, it has not been possible to establish the necessary technical arrangements between EUPOL Afghanistan and ISAF, which is far from satisfactory. Staff-to-staff contacts continue in the run-up to the ESDP mission in Kosovo.
438. On capabilities, work was concluded on finding ways of improving the modalities of functioning of the EU-NATO Capability Group. However, restrictions concerning both the participation of two EU Member States in the Group and the release of NATO classified information limit the possible exchanges between EU and NATO.

EU-AU

439. Cooperation, including the security aspects, between the AU and the EU during 2007 took place essentially in the framework of the EU-Africa strategic partnership which was concluded by the adoption of the Joint EU/Africa Strategy in December in Lisbon. This Joint Strategy establishes a new approach of political partnership between equals and ways of jointly addressing global challenges that affect both continents. As regards the partnership on peace and security issues, the EU supports the strengthening of African Capabilities in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, inter alia through the African Peace Facility.

440. The setting-up of an EUSR office and a European Commission Delegation to the African Union in Addis Ababa constitutes an important step regarding the implementation of this partnership, in particular for the strengthening of African Capabilities in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

EU-OSCE

441. Throughout 2007 EU Presidencies actively supported the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship's efforts to cooperate on various regional issues, such as the Balkans, the Republic of Moldova and the South Caucasus, and to develop the EU-OSCE partnership further. Staff-to-staff discussions took place in Vienna and helped to forge a sense of closer cooperation on a wide range of issues. This was particularly helpful, as the regular information exchange at expert level continued in all meetings, especially with regard to Kosovo.
442. On 23 January the EU-OSCE Troika took note of the OSCE Chair's priorities for 2007, and similarly Troikas took place with Russia, the United States, Ukraine and EEA/EFTA on OSCE matters in the first half of 2007.
443. On 3 October the PSC Troika EU-OSCE met to hold an exchange of views on various issues. The EU participated in several OSCE events, such as the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw (24 September to 5 October 2007).
444. Preparations under the EU-OSCE Ministerial Troika on 19 November 2007 in Brussels included a discussion on the draft declaration on EU-OSCE cooperation ahead of the annual OSCE Ministerial meeting (Madrid, 29 and 30 November 2007). The Ministerial outcome further emphasized the importance of the EU Member States in terms of financial and political support, which will allow OSCE to achieve further tangible results in the near future.

EU acting within international fora

UNITED NATIONS

445. In 2007, the EU continued to focus on the implementation of the 2005 World Summit outcome, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring that the reforms agreed at the summit are fully and speedily implemented. The EU, in particular, continued its efforts to support management reform and mandate review as key elements in support of UN action in the fields of development, collective security and human rights. One of the key developments has been the consolidation of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). In the course of 2007, the institutional issues of EU/EC representation were solved, and the EU/EC is now fully engaged in addressing post-conflict reconstruction in the three countries under examination by the PBC. In June 2007 the Council adopted the EU priorities⁸² for the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). The EU priorities are centred on effective multilateralism and the need for a strengthened and reformed UN. Among the other central priorities are enhancement of the UN's peacekeeping, system-wide coherence, strengthening of the rule of law at national and international levels, international justice, development and the fight against poverty and climate change and global warming.
446. The EU assessment of the 62nd UNGA as of December 2007 was that so far it had been less confrontational and more goal-oriented than the preceding UNGA. The EU has been successful in its outreach efforts, in particular concerning the death penalty moratorium resolution (see the chapter on human rights). Climate change had also been a central issue, and the EU plays an important role as a bridge builder, helping to establish consensus among key players.
447. In 2008, one of the EU's main priorities will be the implementation of the report on system-wide coherence in line with its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to reforming the UN system.

⁸² EU priorities for the 62nd UNGA (10184/07).

Regarding climate change, the EU considered that the UN framework was essential to addressing this crucial challenge. Promoting effective multilateralism in line with the European Strategy remains a fundamental element in the EU's external action, and the EU will continue to engage with other UN Member States and other stakeholders in order to make them contribute to the creation of a stronger and more efficient UN.

OSCE

448. Relations with the OSCE have been developing favourably over the past year. With 27 participating States out of 56, plus up to ten other States aligning themselves on its statements and supporting its initiatives and policies, the EU's weight is fairly considerable in the OSCE. The EU continues to support the full autonomy of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in all its aspects, with a particular emphasis on election observation. The EU raised its voice against the attempts to weaken the standards and commitments assumed by the participating States and against the restrictions imposed by Russia on ODIHR, reducing its capacity to ensure independent and credible election monitoring. The EU aims to ensure a continuing role for the OSCE in Kosovo, and will build on its broad expertise in the field in setting up its own operation. The EU will lend its full support to the OSCE in its role as mediator in the 'frozen conflicts', and welcomed the Finnish Chairman-in-Office's plans to activate existing negotiation mechanisms and promote the search for a political resolution, in particular in the Transnistrian conflict in the Republic of Moldova. At the Madrid Ministerial, the EU supported the package decision on the future Chairmanships that included two EU candidates (Greece for 2009 and Lithuania for 2011) and granted Kazakhstan the Chair of the OSCE in 2010, after a political declaration by Kazakhstan on its commitment to pursue democratic reforms. In 2008, the EU will need to work closely with the OSCE in Central Asia, in the field of border management, especially in the light of the Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

449. During 2007, the existing cooperation between the EU and Council of Europe continued to develop in areas of common interest, for instance in the fields of democratisation, human rights, election monitoring and culture.

The main development in 2007 was the conclusion and signing in June of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the EU and the Council of Europe, which was a result of the follow-up to the Juncker Report of 2006 which made recommendations on the strengthening of the partnership between the two organisations. The implementation of the MoU and the Juncker Report's recommendations are being discussed both in the Council of Europe and the relevant EU Council working party.

450. A cooperation agreement between the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Council of Europe, outlining cooperation between that Agency and the Council of Europe (pursuant to Regulation (EC) No. 168/2007 of 15 February 2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), has been agreed upon. The EU Council Decision on that Agreement was adopted in February 2008. In order to increase transparency and foster better co-operation, Council of Europe Secretariat representatives will be invited by the Fundamental Rights Agency's Executive Board to attend meetings of the Agency's Management Board as observers.

451. In its relations with the Council of Europe, the EU is striving to ensure complementarity and added value, inter alia through the abovementioned instruments.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

452. During 2007 the EU continued to implement the Council's Common Position on the International Criminal Court (ICC) of 16 June 2003⁸³ and the associated Action Plan of February 2004⁸⁴. It carried out approximately forty demarches to different countries and regional organisations, in particular to promote the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute. Furthermore, the EU continues to pursue the inclusion of an ICC clause in negotiating mandates and agreements with third countries. The issue of the ICC was raised with third parties at political dialogue meetings and summits. Initiatives were taken to ensure mainstreaming of the ICC into the work of other working parties in areas where the court system is underrepresented (Central Asia and Middle East).

⁸³ Council Common Position 2003/444/CFSP, OJ L 150, 18.6.2003, p. 67.

⁸⁴ 5742/04.

453. The EU made a strong statement at the 6th Session of the Assembly of the States Parties to the Rome Statute (New York, 30 November - 14 December 2007), underlining the need for cooperation with the Court and expressing deep concern at the uncooperative attitude of the Sudanese Government in the Darfur situation.
454. EU support for the Court remains as firm as ever, as shown in the recent Council publication entitled "*The European Union and the International Criminal Court*"⁸⁵ (November 2007), which shows the extent of EU actions in support of the Court and the EU's strategy of mainstreaming its stance in defence of the Court's interests in its policies. The EU Strategy for Central Asia⁸⁶, adopted by the European Council in June 2007, is a clear example of how the EU mainstreams the ICC in its external policies.
455. The EU will continue this work in 2008, and in particular implementation of the Action Plan. Following the 2006 Agreement on cooperation and assistance⁸⁷, 2008 will see the start of the implementation of the security arrangements for the exchange of classified information between the ICC and the EU. This will be a further step in the strengthening of EU cooperation with the Court.

Institutionalisation of ESDP: EDA, ISS, SATCEN and EDSC

EDA

456. In its third year of operation, the European Defence Agency continued to deliver substantial results addressing both the short and the long term.
457. In particular, the Agency has achieved results in developing long-term strategies: progress on the elaboration of a Capability Development Plan, with agreement on a Methodology and a Road Map; beginning of the implementation of the strategy for the development of a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base; adoption of a framework for the development of a European Defence Research and Technology strategy; agreement on enablers for the enhancement of cooperation to underpin the armaments strategy to be developed in 2008.

⁸⁵ <http://consilium.europa.eu/icc>

⁸⁶ 10113/07.

⁸⁷ OJ L 115, 28.4.2006, p. 50.

458. In addition, the Agency made progress on a number of policies, programmes, projects and initiatives, such as: generally effective functioning of the regime for defence procurement; successful implementation of the first Research and Technology Investment Programme, in the area of Force Protection; continued progress towards the identification of common defence capability requirements, in particular in the areas of Network-Enabled Capability (NEC), Operational Intelligence, 21st Century Soldier Systems, and strategic transport; adoption of a Code of Conduct for the promotion of transparency and the coordination of investments in the field of test and evaluation facilities; efforts to seek synergies between military and civilian activities, in consultation with the European Commission, especially in the areas of Software Defined Radio (SDR), Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and Maritime Surveillance.

EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

459. The EUISS pursued its role as a focal point for academic exchange, networking and monitoring as well as a policy-oriented think tank, supplying European policy makers with analysis and advice. With effect from 1 May 2007, Mr. Álvaro de Vasconcelos was appointed Director, succeeding Ms Nicole Gnesotto, who had led the Institute since its creation in 2001. Continuous evolution will enable the Institute to respond to increasing demand for CFSP/ESDP-related research and analysis.

EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

460. EUSC support for CFSP/ESDP decision making was further developed, in particular in relation to the preparation and conduct of operations and support actions. The very fruitful cooperation with the UN in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Lebanon was pursued. The EUSC has also participated in the European initiative of Global Monitoring for Environment and Security. This range of activities contributes to the strengthening of the role of the EUSC in providing security-related geospatial information analysis in the field of CFSP/ESDP.

European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

461. The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) met significant training requirements at the strategic level and has become the key training actor, providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel able to work efficiently on all ESDP matters. With its close links with the EU institutions, the ESDC is in a unique position to enhance the European security culture within ESDP and to develop and promote a common understanding of ESDP between civilian and military personnel.
462. Members of the European Parliament Secretariat regularly participate in courses at the College.
463. In December 2007 the ESDC Steering Committee finalised a report on the activities and perspectives of the ESDC (Article 13 Report). The report summarises the current situation of the ESDC, elaborates on the principle perspectives of the ESDC, identifies the key issues at stake, elaborates on the deficiency areas, and sets out practical measures to overcome them. The report also acknowledges that there is room for improvement regarding, in particular, the installation and running of an internet-based distance learning system, and that a number of organisational, administrative and financial aspects also need to be reviewed in the light of experience gained.

European Union Special Representatives

464. 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 2007, 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 ("double-hatted" also as Head of the Commission Delegation), the African Great Lakes, the Middle East Peace Process, the Republic of Moldova, the South Caucasus, and Sudan.

465. In 2007, the Council further developed the EUSR Guidelines: as a general rule, the tenure of office of an EUSR should not exceed four years, the evaluation process and the coordinating role of the EUSR in the field will be strengthened, and Member States will be called upon to nominate more female candidates for appointment as EUSRs.
466. A tenth EUSR post was created in 2007: in order to strengthen relations with the African Union (AU) the EU decided to create an integrated EUSR office and European Commission Delegation to the AU in Addis Ababa. Following the announcement at the EU-Africa summit in Lisbon in December 2007 Mr Koen Vervaeke was appointed on 6 December as EUSR for the AU. At the same date, he was appointed by the Commission as Head of the European Commission Delegation for the African Union.
467. In addition (although this is an appointment of a different nature to that of an EUSR), the EU reacted quickly in 2007 to the unfolding crisis in Burma/Myanmar by, *inter alia*, appointing a Special Envoy (Mr Piero Fassino) of SG/HR Solana charged with coordinating EU engagement and supporting the UN efforts at conflict resolution led by UN Special Representative Gambari.
468. The list of EUSRs reflects the EU's priorities in its common foreign and security policy, and EUSR presence extends to the world's conflict regions where EU interests are most directly at stake. EUSRs are the European Union's face in the field.
469. EUSRs are appointed by the Council by means of 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 to bring about solutions to long-standing or "frozen" conflicts.
470. The EUSRs carry out their duties under the authority and operational direction of the SG/HR, 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 ("field-based" EUSRs), and, on the other hand, those working from Brussels on a travelling basis. 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 by seconding experts to the EUSRs' teams.

471. In 2007, the EUSRs again played a significant role as an important tool of the CFSP. A key contributing factor was good and fast information flow: the EUSRs ensured timely reporting and analysis of developments for the SG/HR and all other CFSP actors in Brussels especially in cases of rapidly developing crises. They added to the 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, often by conveying clear messages on what the EU expected from the conflict partners. Giving political advice to ESDP operations and preparing policy proposals for consideration by the Political and Security Committee and Council working parties are among the chief tasks of the EUSRs. In addition, 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.
472. The EUSRs continued to play an important role in ensuring, on the ground, coherence across the whole "EU family": i.e. helping to bring together the full spectrum of conflict management instruments - military, civilian, diplomatic and economic - and helping to 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 to successful and sustainable action by the EU as a whole. Detailed assessments of the work of the individual EUSRs are given in the regional/country sections above.
473. SG/HR Solana has encouraged EUSRs to update the European Parliament on their objectives and activities on a regular basis. In 2007, all nine EUSRs appeared at least once before the European Parliament. Overall, they briefed relevant EP bodies on fourteen occasions in different formats.

474. In 2008 EUSRs will continue to be an important factor contributing to the decision-making process and the implementation of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Reflecting changing requirements, an EUSR will be appointed for Kosovo as part of the post-status arrangements, a measure originally expected in 2007.

EU autonomous/additional restrictive measures

475. On 18 April 2007 the Permanent Representatives Committee approved a series of recommendations for dealing with country-specific EU autonomous sanctions or EU additions to sanctions decided by the United Nations (see 7697/07).

476. Those recommendations cover the need

- for detailed information allowing for a proper identification of those targeted;
- to state the reasons, as concretely as possible, why the Council considers, in the exercise of its discretion, that the person, group or entity falls under the criteria defined by the basic legal act;
- to notify the party concerned of the actual and specific reasons justifying the listing, on the basis of the criteria and motivation set out in the basic legal acts;
- to inform the persons, groups and entities concerned of their right to make their views effectively known, either by publishing a notice in the C-series of the Official Journal on the same day as the publication of the legal act in question, or by way of individual notification;
- to establish a procedure for processing individual requests for de-listing.

477. Subsequently, on 27 June 2007, the Permanent Representatives Committee also endorsed a series of practical recommendations to the relevant working parties to be followed when they dealt with country-specific EU autonomous sanctions or EU additions to UN sanctions regimes.

478. When reviewing its sanctions regimes in force or when applying new sanctions, the Council takes due account of the effect of those measures on the persons and entities targeted. To that end, practical recommendations have been drawn up concerning the reasons to be given for the restrictive measures in question, the rights of those listed and the processing of de-listing requests.

479. In addition, as indicated above, specific guidelines have been developed for financial sanctions against the financing of terrorism (see Part III, Chapter 1 on Counter-terrorism).

CHAPTER 2 - FINANCING OF CFSP/ESDP

General context - Important developments in the legal and financial framework for external relations

480. Pursuant to Article 28(3) of the Treaty on European Union, operating expenditure relating 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, which is charged "to the Member States in accordance with the gross national product scale, unless the Council acting unanimously decides otherwise".

481. The EU's increasing activity in the field of Common Foreign and Security Policy needs adequate financial resources. Therefore it was very satisfactory that in November 2007 the two arms of the Budgetary Authority agreed on the CFSP budget for 2008 of EUR 284,85 million, compared to EUR 159,2 million in 2007. The increase will make it possible to finance the planned CFSP activities and in particular the largest-ever EU mission in Kosovo.

482. On 14 May 2007 the Council adopted a Decision⁸⁸ which codifies the original Decision of 23 February 2004 establishing ATHENA, a permanent mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications, in particular in the interests of clarity and rationality in the light of subsequent amendments to that Decision agreed in 2004, 2005 and 2006. The next revision of the ATHENA mechanism is planned for the second half of 2008.

483. In June 2007 the PSC agreed a procedure for recourse to the Preparatory Measure budget line which will facilitate the rapid deployment of future ESDP missions. The procedures were tested in practice in July 2007 in the financing of the Head of Mission designate of the ESDP mission in Kosovo, Mr Yves de Kermabon.

Activities funded by the CFSP budget line⁸⁹ in 2007

484. The overwhelming proportion (84 %) of the 2007 CFSP budget was allocated to operations and actions related to civilian crisis management. The largest share of that expenditure was directed towards the preparation of the EU presence in Kosovo and the financing of the EU mission in Afghanistan.

485. Another proportion (10,1 %) covered expenditure relating to the mandates of the EUSRs. 5,7 % of the CFSP budget was committed to EU activities implementing the EU strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The remaining proportion was allocated to preparatory and follow-up measures.

486. Although, for many reasons, it is difficult to assess in the short term the success of the CFSP/ESDP actions undertaken, it can be seen that they have a positive impact on stabilisation and the reduction of conflicts in the regions concerned. They also contribute to the enhancement of the EU's leverage and influence in the world.

⁸⁸ OJ L 152, 13.6.2007, p.14.

⁸⁹ 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.

Actions planned for 2008

487. In line with the Union's growing capacity to undertake crisis management, there has been a rapid growth in civilian crisis management in the past few years. This trend of expanding EU activities in crisis management operations, and a corresponding increase in expenditure for financing, can be expected to continue in 2008.
488. The EU operation in Kosovo will be the largest civilian crisis management operation carried out by the ESDP to date. It is expected to have about 2000 international personnel. It will also be the first EU police and justice mission with executive authorities.
489. A political mission - International Civilian Office (not financed from CFSP funds) and EUSR for Kosovo - will also be established to assist in the implementation of a Kosovo status outcome.
490. During 2008 the EU will have to deal with the possible continuation of a number of existing activities: EUPM (Bosnia and Herzegovina), actions in support of the Palestinian Authority, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Iraq, EUSRs, and actions in the areas of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). A new Security Sector Reform mission in Guinea-Bissau was agreed in February 2008 as were new activities in the field of non-proliferation.
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ACTES JURIDIQUES PESC 2007

DATE	OBJET	BASE JURIDIQUE	RÉFÉRENCE J.O.	MONTANT DE RÉFÉRENCE FINANCIÈRE (EUR) ⁹⁰
I. MESURES RESTRICTIVES				
L1 BALKANS OCCIDENTAUX				
01.10.2007	Prorogation de la position commune 2004/694/PESC concernant de nouvelles mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en oeuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	art. 15	2007/635/PESC L 256 (02.10.2007)	_____
23.07.2007	Mise en oeuvre de la position commune 2004/293/PESC concernant le renouvellement des mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en oeuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	art. 2 position commune 2004/293/PESC; art. 23(2)	2007/521/PESC L 192 (24.07.2007)	_____
28.06.2007	Mise en oeuvre de la position commune 2004/694/PESC concernant de nouvelles mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en oeuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	art. 2 position commune 2004/694/PESC; art. 23(2)	2007/449/PESC L 169 (29.06.2007)	_____
18.06.2007	Mise en oeuvre de la position commune 2004/293/PESC concernant le renouvellement des mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en oeuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	art. 2 position commune 2004/293/PESC; art. 23(2)	2007/426/PESC L 157 (19.06.2007)	_____
05.03.2007	Renouvellement des mesures définies à l'appui d'une mise en oeuvre effective du mandat du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY)	art. 15	2007/150/PESC L 66 (06.03.2007)	_____
07.02.2007	Prorogation et modification de la position commune 2004/133/PESC concernant des mesures restrictives à l'égard d'extrémistes dans l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine	art. 15	2007/86/CFSP L 35 (08.02.2007)	_____
L2 AFRIQUE				
CÔTE D'IVOIRE				
22.11.2007	Renouvellement des mesures restrictives instituées à l'encontre de la Côte d'Ivoire	art. 15	2007/761/PESC L 305 (23.11.2007)	_____
12.02.2007	Renouvellement des mesures restrictives instituées à l'encontre de la Côte d'Ivoire	art. 15	2007/92/PESC L 41 (13.02.2007)	_____
REPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO				
09.10.2007	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	2007/654/PESC; L 264 (10.10.2007)	_____
LIBERIA				
11.06.2007	Levée de certaines mesures restrictives instituées à l'encontre du Liberia	art. 15	2007/400/PESC L 150 (12.06.2007)	_____
12.02.2007	Modification et renouvellement de la position commune 2004/137/PESC concernant certaines mesures restrictives instituées à l'encontre du Liberia	art. 15	2007/93/PESC L 41 (13.02.2007)	_____
SOMALIE				
07.06.2007	Modification de la position commune 2002/960/PESC concernant des mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Somalie	art. 15	2007/391/PESC L 146 (08.06.2007)	_____
12.02.2007	Modification de la position commune 2002/960/PESC concernant des mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Somalie	art. 15	2007/94/PESC L 41 (13.02.2007)	_____

⁹⁰ Un tiret dans cette colonne indique que l'acte juridique en question ne contient pas de montant de référence. Il indique soit que l'acte juridique est une extension sans coût soit que par sa nature, cet acte ne nécessitait pas de coût.

ZIMBABWE				
25.06.2007	Mise en oeuvre de la position commune 2004/161/PESC renouvelant les mesures restrictives à l'encontre du Zimbabwe	position commune 2004/161/PESC art. 6; art. 23(2)	2007/455/PESC L 172 (30.06.2007)	_____
16.04.2007	Mise en oeuvre de la position commune 2004/161/PESC renouvelant les mesures restrictives à l'encontre du Zimbabwe	position commune 2004/161/PESC art. 6; art. 23(2)	2007/235/PESC L 101 (18.04.2007)	_____
19.02.2007	Renouvellement des mesures restrictives	art. 15	2007/120/PESC L 51 (20.02.2007)	_____
BIRMANIE / MYANMAR				
19.11.2007	Modification de la position commune 2006/318/PESC renouvelant les mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Birmanie/du Myanmar	art. 15	2007/750/PESC L 308 (24.11.2007)	_____
23.04.2007	Renouvellement des mesures restrictives à l'encontre de la Birmanie/du Myanmar	art. 15	2007/248/PESC L 107 (25.04.2007)	_____
IRAN				
23.04.2007	Modification de la position commune 2007/140/PESC concernant l'adoption de mesures restrictives à l'encontre de l'Iran	art. 15	2007/246/PESC L 106 (24.04.2007)	_____
23.04.2007	Mise en oeuvre de l'article 7, paragraphe 2, du règlement (CE) no 423/2007 concernant l'adoption de mesures restrictives à l'encontre de l'Iran	Règlement (CE) No 423/2007: art. 15(2)	2007/242/CE L 106 (24.04.2007)	_____
27.02.2007	Adoption de mesures restrictives à l'encontre de l'Iran	art. 15	2007/140/PESC L 61 (28.02.2007)	_____
I.5 EUROPE ORIENTALE ET ASIE CENTRALE				
BIÉLORUSSIE				
19.03.2007	Renouvellement des mesures restrictives à l'encontre de certains fonctionnaires du Belarus	art. 15	2007/173/PESC L 79 (20.03.2007)	_____
RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDAVIE				
19.02.2007	Prorogation et modification de la position commune 2004/179/PESC concernant des mesures restrictives à l'encontre des dirigeants de la région de Transnistrie de la République de Moldova	art. 15	2007/121/PESC L 51 (20.02.2007)	_____
OUZBÉKISTAN				
13.11.2007	Mesures restrictives à l'encontre de l'Ouzbékistan	art. 15	2007/734/PESC L 295 (14.11.2007)	_____
14.05.2007	Renouvellement de certaines mesures restrictives à l'encontre de l'Ouzbékistan	art. 15	2007/338/PESC L 128 (16.05.2007)	_____
II. PESD				
II.1 BALKANS OCCIDENTAUX				
18.12.2007	Nomination du chef de l'équipe de planification de l'Union européenne (EPUE Kosovo)	art. 25, troisième alinéa action commune 2006/304/PESC art. 6 action commune 2007/778/PESC	2007/888/PESC EPUE/2/2007 L 346 (29.12.2007)	_____
04.12.2007	Mise en oeuvre de l'action commune 2007/749/PESC concernant la Mission de police de l'Union européenne (MPUE) en Bosnie-Herzégovine	action commune 2007/749/PESC art. 12(1) art. 23(2) 2ième tiret	2007/791/PESC L 317 (05.12.2007)	14.800.000
30.11.2007	Nomination du chef de mission/commissaire de police de la Mission de police de l'Union européenne (MPUE) en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 25(3), action commune 2007/749/PESC art. 17, action commune 2005/824/PESC art. 9(1)	EUPM/1/2007 L 329 (14.12.2007) Rectificatif: L 330 (15.12.2007)	_____

29.11.2007	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	2007/778/PESC L 312 (30.11.2007)	22.000.000
19.11.2007	Mission de police de l'Union européenne (MPUE) en Bosnie-Herzégovine	art. 14, art. 25(3)	2007/749/PESC L 303 (21.11.2007)	_____
19.11.2007	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2006/623/PESC concernant la 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	2007/744/PESC L 301 (20.11.2007)	1.692.000
08.11.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2004/570/PESC concernant l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 14	2007/720/PESC L 291 (09.11.2007)	_____
25.09.2007	Nomination du chef de l'élément de commandement de l'Union européenne à Naples, dans le cadre de l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 25(3) action commune 2004/570/PESC art. 6	2007/725/PESC BiH/12/2007 L 293 (10.11.2007)	_____
25.09.2007	Nomination du commandant de l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 25(3) action commune 2004/570/PESC art. 6	2007/724/PESC BiH/10/2007 L 293 (10.11.2007)	_____
25.09.2007	Nomination du commandant de la force de l'Union européenne pour l'opération militaire de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 25 action commune 2004/570/PESC art. 6	2007/711/PESC BiH/11/2007 L 288 (06.11.2007)	_____
23.07.2007	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	2007/520/PESC L 192 (24.07.2007)	_____
16.07.2007	Modification et prorogation de l'action commune 2006/623/PESC concernant la 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	2007/517/PESC L 190 (21.07.2007)	1.875.000
15.05.2007	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)	2007/358/PESC L 133 (25.05.2007)	_____
14.05.2007	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	2007/334/PESC L 125 (15.05.2007)	43.955.000
27.03.2007	Prorogation du mandat de l'équipe de l'Union européenne 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(3)	2007/203/PESC L 90 (30.03.2007)	807.000
22.01.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2002/921/PESC prorogeant le mandat de la Mission de surveillance de l'Union européenne	art. 14	2007/40/PESC L 17 (24.01.2007)	_____
II.2 AFRIQUE				
20.12.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2007/405/PESC relative à la mission de police de l'Union européenne menée dans le cadre de la réforme du secteur de la sécurité (RSS) et son interface avec la justice en République démocratique du Congo (EUPOL RD Congo)	art. 14	2008/38/PESC L 9 (12.01.2008)	_____
20.12.2007	Abrogation de l'action commune 2005/557/PESC concernant l'action de soutien civilo-militaire de l'Union européenne aux missions de l'Union africaine dans la région soudanaise du Darfour et en Somalie	art. 14 action commune 2005/557/PESC art. 16(2)	2007/887/PESC L 346 (29.12.2007)	_____
22.10.2007	Mise en oeuvre de l'action commune 2005/557/PESC concernant l'action de soutien civilo-militaire de l'Union européenne aux missions de l'Union africaine dans la région soudanaise du Darfour et en Somalie	action commune 2005/557/PESC art. 8(1) deuxième alinéa; art. 23(2)	2007/690/PESC L 282 (26.10.2007)	_____

15.10.2007	Opération militaire de l'Union européenne en République du Tchad et en République centrafricaine	art. 14, art. 25 troisième alinéa, art. 28 § 3	2007/677/PESC L 279 (23.10.2007)	99.200.000
18.07.2007	Nomination d'un conseiller militaire du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Soudan	art. 25(3) action commune 2005/557/PESC art. 4	2007/537/PESC DARFUR/6/2007 L 196 (28.07.2007)	_____
12.06.2007	Mission de conseil et d'assistance de l'Union européenne en matière de réforme du secteur de la sécurité en République démocratique du Congo (EUSEC RD Congo)	art. 14, art. 25 troisième alinéa, art. 28(3) premier alinéa	2007/406/PESC L 151 (13.06.2007)	9.700.000
12.06.2007	Mission de police de l'Union européenne menée dans le cadre de la réforme du secteur de la sécurité (RSS) et son interface avec la justice en République démocratique du Congo (EUPOL RD Congo)	art. 14, art. 25 troisième alinéa	2007/405/PESC L 151(13.06.2007)	5.500.000
23.04.2007	Modification 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 pour ce qui est de l'inclusion d'un élément de soutien militaire destiné à contribuer à la mise en place de la mission de l'Union africaine en Somalie (AMISOM)	art. 14	2007/245/PESC L 106 (24.04.2007)	_____
23.04.2007	Mise en oeuvre 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	action commune 2005/557/PESC: art. 8(1); art. 23(2)	2007/244/PESC L 106 (24.04.2007)	2.125.000
27.03.2007	Modification 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	2007/192/PESC L 87 (28.03.2007)	_____
27.02.2007	Abrogation de l'action commune 2006/319/PESC relative 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	art. 14	2007/147/PESC L 64 (02.03.2007)	_____
16.01.2007	Nomination d'un conseiller militaire du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Soudan	art. 25(3) action commune 2005/557/PESC art. 4	2007/34/PESC DARFUR/5/2007 L 13 (19.01.2007)	_____
II.3 ASIE / OCÉANIE				
30.11.2007	Établissement du comité des contributeurs pour la Mission de police de l'Union européenne en Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)	art. 25 troisième alinéa; action commune 2007/369/PESC art. 10 § 1	2007/886/PESC EUPOL AFGH/2/2007	_____
13.11.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2007/369/PESC relative à l'établissement de la Mission de police de l'Union européenne en Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)	art. 14	2007/733/PESC L 295 (14.11.2007)	_____
16.10.2007	Nomination du chef de la mission EUPOL AFGHANISTAN	art. 25 troisième alinéa; action commune 2007/369/PESC art. 10 § 1	2007/685/PESC EUPOL AFGH/1/2007 L 281 (25.10.2007)	_____
01.10.2007	Conclusion d'un accord entre l'Union européenne et la Nouvelle-Zélande relatif à la participation de la Nouvelle-Zélande à la Mission de police de l'Union européenne en Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)	art. 24	2007/670/PESC L 274 (18.10.2007) + Corrigendum L 290 (08.11.2007)	_____
28.09.2007	Conclusion de l'accord entre l'Union européenne et la République de Croatie relatif à la participation de la République de Croatie à la Mission de police de l'Union européenne en Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)	art. 24	2007/665/PESC L 270 (13.10.2007)	_____
30.05.2007	Établissement de la Mission de police de l'Union européenne en Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)	art. 14, art. 25 troisième alinéa	2007/369/PESC L 139 (31.05.2007)	43.6000.000

II.4 MOYEN-ORIENT / GOLFE				
06.12.2007	Modification de la décision 2006/807/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) premier alinéa, deuxième tiret	2007/808/PESC L 323 (08.12.2007)	2.800.000
06.12.2007	Modification 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	2007/807/PESC L 323 (08.12.2007)	—
06.12.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2005/797/PESC concernant la mission de police de l'Union européenne pour les territoires palestiniens	art. 14	2007/806/PESC L 323 (08.12.2007)	—
22.11.2007	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	2007/760/PESC L 305 (23.11.2007)	—
23.05.2007	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	2007/359/PESC L 133 (25.05.2007)	7.000.000
II.5 EUROPE ORIENTALE ET ASIE CENTRALE				
10.07.2007	Prorogation de l'action commune 2006/439/PESC concernant une nouvelle contribution de l'Union européenne au processus de règlement du conflit en Géorgie/Ossétie du Sud	art. 14	2007/484/PESC L 181 (11.07.2007)	—
II.6 ATHENA				
12.02.2007	Modification de la décision 2004/197/PESC créant un mécanisme de gestion du financement des coûts communs des opérations de l'Union européenne ayant des implications militaires ou dans le domaine de la défense (ATHENA)	art. 13(3), art. 28(3)	2007/91/PESC L 41 (13.02.2007)	—
III. INSTITUTIONNALISATION DE LA PESD: AGENCE EUROPEENNE DE DEFENSE, INSTITUT D'ETUDES DE SECURITE, CENTRE SATELLITAIRE ET COLLEGE EUROPEEN DE SECURITE ET DE DÉFENSE				
18.09.2007	Décision du Conseil concernant le règlement financier de l'Agence européenne de défense, les règles de passation de marchés et les règles relatives aux contributions financières provenant du budget opérationnel de l'Agence européenne de défense	art. 18 § 1 action commune 2004/551/PESC	2007/643/PESC L 269 (12.10.2007)	—
IV. REPRÉSENTANTS SPÉCIAUX DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE				
IV.1 AFGHANISTAN				
13.11.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2007/106/PESC prorogeant le mandat du Représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/732/PESC L 295 (14.11.2007)	—
IV.2 RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS AFRICAINS				
15.02.2007	Nomination de M. Roeland VAN DE GEER comme Représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/112/PESC L 46 (16.02.2007)	1.025.000
IV.3 BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE				
19.11.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2007/87/PESC modifiant et prorogeant le mandat du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-Herzégovine	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/748/PESC L 303 (21.11.2007)	—
18.06.2007	Nomination de M. Miroslav Lajčák comme représentant spécial de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/427/PESC L 159 (20.06.2007)	1.530.000
07.02.2007	Modification et prorogation du mandat de M. Christian SCHWARZ-SCHILLING comme Représentant spécial de l'Union européenne en Bosnie-et-Herzégovine	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/87/CFSP L 35 (08.02.2007)	770.000
IV.4 ASIE CENTRALE				
01.10.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2007/113/PESC modifiant et prorogeant le mandat de M. Pierre MOREL comme Représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/634/PESC L 256 (02.10.2007)	—
15.02.2007	Modification et prorogation du mandat de M. Pierre MOREL comme Représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/113/PESC L 46 (16.02.2007)	1.000.000
IV.6 ANCIENNE RÉPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACÉDOINE (ARYM)				
15.02.2007	Modification et prorogation du mandat de M. Erwan FOUÉRÉ comme Représentant spécial de l'Union européenne dans l'ARYM	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/109/PESC L 46 (16.02.2007)	725.000

IV.7 PROCESSUS DE PAIX AU MOYEN-ORIENT				
15.02.2007	Prorogation et modification du mandat de M. Marc OTTE comme Représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/110/PESC L 46 (16.02.2007)	1.700.000
IV.8 RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDAVIE				
15.02.2007	Nomination de M. Kálmán MIZSEI comme Représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/107/PESC L 46 (16.02.2007)	1.100.000
IV.9 CAUCASE DU SUD				
15.02.2007	Modification et prorogation du mandat de M. Peter SEMNEBY comme Représentant spécial de l'UE	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/111/PESC L 46 (16.02.2007)	3.120.000
IV.10 SOUDAN				
06.12.2007	Modification de l'action commune 2007/108/PESC prorogeant le mandat du représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Soudan	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/809/PESC L 323 (08.12.2007)	_____
19.04.2007	Nomination de M. Torben BRYLLE comme représentant spécial de l'Union européenne pour le Soudan	art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/238/PESC L 103 (20.04.2007)	1.700.000
15.02.2007	Prorogation du mandat de M. Pekka HAAVISTO comme Représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/108/PESC L 46 (16.02.2007)	_____
IV.11 UNION AFRICAINE				
06.12.2007	Nomination de M. Koen Vervaeke comme représentant spécial de l'Union européenne	art. 14, art. 18(5), art. 23(2)	2007/805/PESC L 323 (08.12.2007)	1.200.000
V. NON-PROLIFERATION				
22.11.2007	Participation de l'Union européenne à l'Organisation pour le développement de l'énergie dans la péninsule coréenne (KEDO)	art. 15	2007/762/PESC L 305 (23.11.2007)	_____
19.11.2007	Soutien en faveur des activités de surveillance et de vérification menées par l'AIEA en République populaire démocratique de Corée dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie de l'Union européenne contre la prolifération des armes de destruction massive	art. 14	2007/753/PESC L 304 (22.11.2007)	1.780.000
23.07.2007	Soutien de la convention sur l'interdiction ou la limitation de l'emploi de certaines armes classiques qui peuvent être considérées comme produisant des effets traumatiques excessifs ou comme frappant sans discrimination, dans le cadre de la stratégie européenne de sécurité	art. 14 et art. 2(1)	2007/528/PESC L 194 (26.07.2007)	828.000
28.06.2007	Conférence d'examen de la convention sur l'interdiction de la mise au point, de la fabrication, du stockage et de l'emploi des armes chimiques et sur leur destruction (CAC) qui aura lieu en 2008	art. 15	2007-469-PESC L 176 (06.07.2007)	_____
28.06.2007	Soutien aux activités de la commission préparatoire de l'Organisation du traité d'interdiction complète des essais nucléaires (OTICE) afin de renforcer ses capacités en matière de surveillance et de vérification et dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie de l'UE contre la prolifération des armes de destruction massive	art. 14	2007-468-PESC L 176 (06.07.2007)	1.670.000
19.03.2007	Soutien aux activités de l'OIAC dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie de l'Union européenne contre la prolifération des armes de destruction massive	art. 14	2007/185/PESC L 85 (27.03.2007)	1.700.000
19.03.2007	Destruction d'armes chimiques dans la Fédération de Russie dans le cadre de la stratégie de l'Union européenne contre la prolifération des armes de destruction massive	art. 14	2007/178/PESC L 81 (22.03.2007)	3.145.000
VI. LUTTE CONTRE LE TERRORISME				
20.12.2007	Mise à jour de la position commune 2001/931/PESC relative à l'application de mesures spécifiques en vue de lutter contre le terrorisme et abrogeant la position commune 2007/448/PESC	art. 15 et 34	2007/871/PESC L 340 (22.12.2007)	_____
20.12.2007	Mise en oeuvre 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, et abrogeant la décision 2007/445/CE	règl. CE 2580/2001, art. 2(3)	2007/868/CE L 340 (22.12.2007)	_____
16.07.2007	Coopération avec le Centre africain d'études et de recherches sur le terrorisme, dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie de l'Union européenne de lutte contre le terrorisme	art. 14	2007/501/PESC L 185 (17.07.2007)	665.000
28.06.2007	Mise à jour de la position commune 2001/931/PESC relative à l'application de mesures spécifiques en vue de lutter contre le terrorisme et abrogeant les positions communes 2006/380/PESC et 2006/1011/PESC	art. 15 et 34	2007/448/PESC L 169 (29.06.2007)	_____

28.06.2007	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, et abrogeant les décisions 2006/379/CE et 2006/1008/CE	règl. CE 2580/2001, art. 2(3)	2007/445/CE L 169 (29.06.2007)	_____
VII. SECURITÉ				
18.06.2007	Modification de la décision 2001/264/CE adoptant le règlement de sécurité du Conseil	art. 207 §3, Déc. 2006/683/CE art. 24	2007/438/CE L 164 (26.06.2007)	_____
VIII. AUTRES ACTES JURIDIQUES				
PROCESSUS DE PAIX AU MOYEN-ORIENT				
30.10.2007	Accueil temporaire de certains Palestiniens par des États membres de l'UE	art. 15	2007/705/PESC L 285 (31.10.2007)	_____

Appearances of European Union Special Representatives in the European Parliament in 2007

No	DATE	PERSON/ SUBJECT	PLACE
1	29.01	EUSR for FYROM Fouéré	EU-FYROM JPC
2	30.01	EUSR for South Caucasus Semneby	EU-Armenia PCC
3	20.02	EUSR for Central Asia Morel	EP Delegation for Central Asia
4	27.02	EUSR for FYROM Fouéré	AFET
5	08.05	EUSR for Central Asia Morel	AFET
6	10.05	EUSR for the Middle East Otte	Briefing for members of the EP Delegation for Palestinian Territories
7	05.06	EUSR for Sudan Brylle (as an observer)	Enlarged Conference of presidents on Sudan/Darfur
8	13.06	EUSR for Sudan Brylle	DEVE (Briefing for MEPs going to Sudan)
9	27.06	EUSR for Great Lakes region Van de Geer	AFET
10	12.09	EUSR for Moldova Mizsei	AFET
11	02.10	EUSR for South Caucasus Semneby	AFET
12	03.10	EUSR for Sudan Brylle	DEVE
13	19.11	EUSR for Afghanistan Vendrell	AFET (in camera)
14	27.11	EUSR for Bosnia and Herzegovina Lajcak	AFET