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- June, 28, 2007

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Committee on budgetary control

- June, 26, 27, 2007

CONFERENCES / EVENTS

REGIONS:

AFRICA

Uganda

► **Council Conclusions on Uganda** (18.06.2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. The Council reaffirms its strong support for the ongoing peace talks in Juba between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), aimed at ending the long-running conflict in Northern Uganda, which also has had a devastating impact on the wider region, particularly in terms of the many civilians killed, abducted and displaced. The cessation of hostilities agreement is of fundamental importance for the whole process.

2. The Council welcomes the appointment of former President of Mozambique, His Excellency Joaquim Chissano, as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for LRA affected areas and commends his efforts to support the mediation process, including through direct intervention with both parties. It also welcomes the contribution of the African Union to the mediation effort and commends the continuing mediation offered by the Government of Southern Sudan, notably through its Vice-President, Dr. Riek Machar, as chief mediator.

3 The Council underlines the continued importance of reaching a peace deal which provides both peace and justice to the local communities, and which is compatible with the wishes of the local communities, national laws and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

4. The Council welcomes the improvements in the security and humanitarian situation in Northern Uganda, whilst recognising that up to one million people remain displaced, and urges the Government of Uganda to continue to address the humanitarian and development needs of the local communities, in fruitful cooperation with the local authorities, NGOs, the UN system and others.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/94731.pdf

AMERICAS

ASIA

Afghanistan

► **EU Presidency Statement on the attack in Kabul** (17/06/2007)

The Presidency of the European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms today's attack in Kabul, which claimed many lives. Among the victims are many Afghan police officers who played their part in helping to establish stability and security in Afghanistan. Within the context of the assistance to build a new Afghan police force, they cooperated closely and in a spirit of trust with the European police experts seconded to Afghanistan.

The Presidency of the European Union conveys its heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims and wishes those who have been injured a rapid and complete recovery.

This attack does nothing to diminish our determination to maintain our support for the construction of the Afghan police force. The European Union is thus also taking a clear stand against the criminal elements responsible for this cowardly act.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/June/0617AFGAnschlag.html

Afghanistan

► Council Conclusions on Afghanistan (18.06.2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council reaffirmed the EU's strong, long-term commitment to Afghanistan, as expressed by the European Council on 14 December 2006. The Afghanistan Compact and the Joint EU-Afghanistan Political Declaration remain a comprehensive framework for increasing EU engagement with Afghanistan.

In the framework of this overall commitment in favour of stability and development in Afghanistan, the EU reaffirms its support for the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to promote and extend the rule of law through development of the police, courts, prisons and the wider justice system, including its counter-narcotics efforts, to the regional and provincial level.

The Council welcomes the launch of an EU police mission to Afghanistan with linkages to the wider concept of rule of law. The mission will work towards an Afghan police force under local ownership, that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law. The mission will build on current efforts, and will pursue a comprehensive and strategic approach. In doing so it will address issues of police reform at central, regional and provincial levels. The Council also welcomes the launch of the Commission's new justice programme, which will support key reforms in the judiciary, focussing on institutional reforms and legal aid. The ESDP mission ("EUPOL Afghanistan") and the European Commission's Justice programme reflect enhanced EU engagement in the rule of law sector in Afghanistan.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/94722.pdf

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

Kazakhstan

► OSCE: Statement of the European Union on the media situation in Kazakhstan (14/06/2007)

The EU continues to follow the media situation in Kazakhstan with great interest. We note the ongoing deliberations on a new media law, which has been welcomed by the Representative on Freedom of the Media and which, if passed and implemented, would contribute significantly to media freedom in Kazakhstan.

While the EU is pleased that the TV channel KTK and the weekly newspaper Karavan are currently operating, and that the ruling on 24 May by an Almaty court to suspend their activities has been lifted, we are concerned by the lack of clarity on the rationale behind these court actions, as well as by indications that the range of output of these outlets, for example as regards news and analytical programming on KTK, has

been reduced. Further areas of concern include reports of detentions of and libel suits against journalists. It is our well-known position that the threat of an excessive use of libel suits creates a climate of uncertainty and fear and can, as a result, lead to self-censorship of the media. The EU urges that all journalists in Kazakhstan be free to do their jobs without fear of pressure.

The EU reiterates its call on Kazakhstan to take up the offer of the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media to assist in bringing legal practice relevant to the media and freedom of expression fully in line with OSCE commitments and encourages Kazakhstan to implement and respect its relevant international human rights commitments.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/Statements_in_International_Organisations/June/0614Kazhastan.htm

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- ▶ **Council appoints new EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina**
(18.06.2007)

The Council adopted a decision appointing Miroslav Lajčák as the new European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) until 29 February 2008, following the departure of Mr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling.

Mr Lajčák's mandate, as set out in joint action 2007/87/CFSP, includes:

offering the EU's advice and facilitation in the political process;

promoting overall EU political coordination in BiH, in particular of EU efforts in tackling organised crime;

supporting the preparation and implementation of police restructuring and for a reinforced and more effective BiH criminal justice/police interface, in close liaison with the EU Police Mission (EUPM);

with a view to coherence and possible synergies, being consulted on priorities for the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance;

contributing to the development and consolidation of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in BiH, in accordance with EU human rights policy;

engaging with relevant BiH authorities on their full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY);

providing political advice and facilitation in the process of constitutional reform

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.ASP?lang=en>

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

- ▶ **EU Presidency Statement on the attack on the minarets of the al-Askari shrine in Samarra (13/06/2007)**

The Presidency of the European Union condemns in the strongest terms the attack on the minarets of the al-Askari shrine in Samarra. The Muslim holy site was already the target of an attack in February 2006.

The clear goal behind this serious act of aggression is to cause the sectarian violence in Iraq to escalate further and to spark ethnic-religious violence.

The Presidency of the European Union is following this development with great concern. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the victims of the attack and their families.

The Presidency of the European Union appeals to the Iraqi Government and people to do everything they can to put a stop to the violence and enable the various religious groups to co-exist peacefully. The perpetrators must be found and brought to justice in a trial conducted in accordance with the rule of law.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/June/0613Irak.html

Palestinian territories

- ▶ **EU Presidency Statement on the recent violence in the Palestinian Territories (13.06.2007)**

The Presidency of the European Union is deeply concerned at the recent outbreak of violence between Fatah and Hamas supporters in the Palestinian Territories which during the past few days has cost the lives of over 40 people and injured numerous others.

The Presidency condemns in the strongest possible terms the attacks by illegal militias on the National Security Forces. It calls on all sides to prevent a civil war, to cease hostilities forthwith, and to return to a political solution to the crisis in accordance with the agreement reached in Mecca on 8 February. The Presidency strongly reiterates its support for President Abbas.

The Presidency is highly concerned at the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the wake of the fighting and urges all sides to assume their responsibility for the protection and supply of the civilian population.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/June/0613Palaestina.html

Palestinian territories

- ▶ **EU Presidency Statement on the situation in the Palestinian Territories (15.06.2007)**

The EU Presidency condemns in the strongest possible terms the violent seizure of power by illegal Hamas militia in the Gaza Strip. It condemns the killing of innocent civilians and members of the legal security forces. It is extremely concerned about the repercussions for the humanitarian situation and demands that all sides facilitate supplies to the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip.

The EU Presidency emphatically supports President Abbas' decision, in keeping with the Palestinian Basic Law, to dismiss the government and to appoint a caretaker government for the Palestinian territories.

The EU Presidency calls upon all sides to accept the decisions made by President Abbas and to do everything possible to help calm the situation in the Gaza Strip and prevent the spread of the violence to the West Bank.

The EU Presidency once again reiterates its complete support for President Abbas, who is our partner and whom we regard as a partner for the Israeli government. It calls upon all sides to support President Abbas.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/June/0615Palaestina.html

Middle East

► **Statement of the Quartet** (16.06.2007)

Following is the text of the statement by the Quartet Principals -- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, .S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, High Representative for European Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner -- on their June 15 telephone call.

In a telephone call on June 15, Quartet Principals shared their deep concern over the welfare and security of all Palestinians -- especially those in Gaza, whose lives have been most seriously affected by the ongoing crisis.

The Quartet expressed its support for efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of Palestinians and called for respect for the human rights of all those in Gaza and the safety and security of international workers. It called for an urgent end to the violence, and the cooperation of all parties to ensure appropriate security and access conditions for the passage of humanitarian goods and personnel both within the Gaza Strip and at key crossing points.

The Quartet expressed understanding and support for President Abbas' decisions to dissolve the cabinet and declare an emergency, given the grave circumstances. The Quartet recognized the necessity and legitimacy of these decisions, taken under Palestinian law, and welcomed President Abbas' stated intention to consult the Palestinian people at the appropriate time. The Quartet noted its continuing support for other legitimate Palestinian institutions.

The Quartet supports the efforts of responsible regional states to help calm the situation, and will continue to promote a negotiated, comprehensive, just and lasting Middle East peace in line with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/solana/index.asp?lang=EN&cmsid=358

Lebanon

► **EU Presidency Statement on the bombing in Beirut** (13.06.2007)

The EU Presidency was deeply shocked to hear of today's bombing in Beirut, which claimed the lives of Lebanese Member of Parliament Walid Eido, his son and the people accompanying him.

The EU Presidency condemns this attack in the strongest terms. It conveys its heartfelt sympathy to the families of the victims and wishes those who have been injured a speedy recovery.

The attack is another targeted attempt to destabilize Lebanon. This is unacceptable and will not succeed. The background to the bombing must be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

The EU Presidency calls upon all parties in Lebanon and the region to take a decisive stand against the violence and to refrain from everything that could further destabilize the domestic situation in Lebanon. The country's political crisis can only be resolved through dialogue and with respect for democratic principles.

http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/CFSP_Statements/June/0613Beirut.html

THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

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EU / UN REFORM

MISCELLANEOUS

Elaboration of an international Arms Trade Treaty

- ▶ **Council Conclusions on a legally binding international Arms Trade Treaty** (18.06.2007)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council welcomes the start of practical work towards the elaboration of a legally binding international Arms Trade Treaty. The Council notes that in January 2007 the UN Secretary-General sought the views of UN Member States on the feasibility, scope and draft parameters of a comprehensive, legally binding instrument with a view to establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The Council is encouraged to note that a large number of States have so far contributed to this process, further demonstrating ongoing and growing international support for this initiative, and acknowledges the active participation by EU Member States in this process. The European Union experience with its own export control system demonstrates the feasibility of agreeing on an instrument without depriving States of their national prerogative to licence or deny individual exports, and confirms the effectiveness and efficiency of a multilateral export control mechanism.

The Council underlines the importance of co-operation with other States and regional organisations in the process of elaborating an Arms Trade Treaty. It expresses its firm belief that a comprehensive, legally binding instrument, consistent with existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law and establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, would be a major contribution to tackling the undesirable and irresponsible proliferation of conventional arms which undermines peace, security, sustainable development and full respect for human rights."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/94725.pdf