

BXL BULLETIN

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Editorial

Good strategy will help steer the future of multilateralism, which as we know has been buffeted by perennial storms in recent years. In this context in recent months the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) all have taken forward seminal strategic documents that grapple with the state of the world. Secretary-General Guterres unveiled ‘Our Common Agenda’ during the General Assembly High-Level week in September. The inclusive nature of the title of this vision document denotes the common effort that all governments and societies will need to undertake to overcome the global challenges facing humanity. The clarity of the language in the report also depicts the urgency of the moment, with the Secretary-General pointing to ‘an inflection point in history’, where humanity faces a stark and urgent choice: breakdown or breakthrough. The report puts forward key proposals across the 12 commitments, including the need to leave no one behind, to promote peace and prevent conflict and to boost partnerships. Partnership is also a central tenet of the Secretary-General’s initiative on Actions for Peacekeeping (A4P), the next phase of which is referred to as Actions for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+) and includes key priorities, many of which will be discussed at the upcoming UN peacekeeping ministerial in Seoul on 07-08 December. For its part the EU stressed the importance of building partnerships in its joint communication on multilateralism issued on the 17 February. HR/VP Borrell has called for more diverse and inclusive partnerships to shape the global responses to the challenges of the 21st century. From its vantage point

NATO has also undertaken a profound reflection process through the so-called NATO 2030 agenda, with allied leaders agreeing at a summit on 14 June on a number of measures, including strengthening of political consultations, upholding the rules-based international order and addressing the security impact of climate change. In view of the strategic processes underway and the need for what Secretary-General Guterres refers to as ‘networked multilateralism’ UNLOPS has also actively engaged with the think tank community in Brussels in recent months to benefit from diverse voices. What rang through in all such exchanges was the importance of inclusivity and the need to empower democratic voices as the basis for next generation multilateralism.

The importance of driving forward ‘networked multilateralism’ aptly runs through the articles in this issue of the UNLOPS bulletin, with the visit of Secretary-General Guterres to Brussels on 23-25 June being the centre-piece. Important institutional dialogue fora on political, peace and security matters have also been taken forward in recent months and are recorded herein, as well as policy updates and practical examples of UN-EU and UN-NATO partnership on the ground. As always, a sincere thanks to UN colleagues at headquarters and EU and NATO colleagues here in Brussels for the collaboration and for bringing partnership to life.

Rory Keane

Head of the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security Brussels

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UN-EU Institutional Dialogue on Peace and Security

In a world in which conflicts and crises grow ever more complex, regular dialogue between key international actors in the area of peace and security remains vital, laying the foundations for close and effective cooperation on the ground. Offering platforms to build close interorganisational cooperation at the leadership level, the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management, the Bi-annual EU-UN High-level Political Dialogue, the UN-EU Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism, and the UN-NATO Staff Talks remain cornerstones of the UN's engagement with key partners on peace and security matters.

Bi-annual High-level Political Dialogue

On 14 June 2021, Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, held a virtual meeting with EEAS Secretary General Stefano Sannino as part of their bi-annual high-level political dialogue. Possibilities for UN-EU partnership were dis-

cussed, while the format of a structured political dialogue also provided the opportunity to zoom in on a range of pressing political files and to discuss concrete steps for conflict prevention. A follow-up exchange took place in person on the margins of the GA high level week.

Informal Meeting between USG Lacroix and EU Defence Ministers

On 28 May 2021, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Peace Operations, participated at an informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers in Lisbon. This six-monthly informal meeting hosted by the Portuguese Minister of Defence enabled Mr. Lacroix to hold a range of bilateral meetings with Defence Ministers as well as an opportunity to review partnership at the operational level between peacekeeping operations and EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. The meetings highlighted the need to leverage all political capital to find acceptable ways out of current political crises, and how best EU Member States

can support UN peacekeeping efforts, including through Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+).

Subsequently, on 1 September 2021, the USG travelled to Slovenia to attend the second informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers of the year, which provided a good opportunity to update Ministers on preparations for the December UN peacekeeping ministerial in Seoul. In addition to bilateral meetings with European Defence Ministers, Mr. Lacroix also met with NATO Deputy Secretary General, Mircea Geoană, to discuss UN-NATO partnership.



EU Defence Ministers at an informal meeting on 2 September 2021 in Kranj, discussing the Strategic Compass, with specific focus on EU operational activities in the Sahel, Libya, Mozambique and the Western Balkans.



Picture: EU Commission

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

Visit of the Secretary-General to EU Headquarters

Fostering Multilateral Cooperation

The Secretary-General visited Brussels from 23 to 25 June 2021 upon invitation from the European Union (EU). The itinerary for his visit included for the first time an engagement with the European Council, the body comprising EU heads of state and government.

During the visit the Secretary-General met with the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen and the College of Commissioners. The main issues addressed included the Covid-19 pandemic, climate and how to foster multilateral solutions and global peace and security matters. During a meeting with the European Council a range of issues including the global challenges linked to climate, the response to the COVID 19 pandemic, and the need to reinvigorate multilateralism were in the spotlight.

The trip also included a bilateral component, notably a

meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo.

In addressing a plenary session of the European Parliament, Mr. Guterres encouraged an ambitious EU response to pressing global challenges. He also warned that “some authorities around the world have deployed heavy-handed security responses and emergency measures to criminalize dissent and basic freedoms and subvert electoral processes.” He emphasized the importance of conflict prevention, for example through election monitoring missions. Mr. Guterres reiterated that “the United Nations and the European Union have much in common” as “both organizations were built on shared principles and a strong commitment to the international rule of law, with the aim to prevent past tragedies and build a more peaceful and prosperous world.”

UN-EU Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) organized the Second Counter-Terrorism (CT) Week from 24 to 30 June 2021 coinciding with the adoption of the Seventh Review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 30 June 2021. During CT week, UNOCT convened the Second High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies from 28 to 30 June, around the theme “Countering and Preventing Terrorism in the Age of Transformative Technologies: Addressing the Challenges of the New Decade”. It featured 13 interactive sessions with the participation of 85 eminent speakers, and almost 2100 in-person and online participants representing 147 Member States, including EU Member States.

EU representatives actively participated in the event. In his opening statement, HR/VP Borrell highlighted the importance of the EU-UN partnership in the fight against terrorism and committed to strengthening this partnership. In addition, 36 side events were held on the margins of the Conference, including two organized by the EU on the opportunity and challenges presented by online and artifi-

cial intelligence tools for the prevention of violent extremism and, on the engagement of civil society organisations in the management of violent extremist prisoners.

New UNOCT Brussels Liaison Officer

On 13 September, Ms. Carole Magnaschi joined UNLOPS as the UNOCT Brussels Liaison Officer. Prior to this as-



Picture: Carole Magnaschi

signment, Carole served as Security Sector Reform Officer with the UN Department of Peace Operations in New York. She previously worked for the UN Department of Political Affairs and for the

Bureau Intégré des Nations Unies au Burundi. As a Liaison Officer, Carole will aim to strengthen and expand UNOCT partnerships with all EU institutions and agencies as well as with NATO, EU Member States, and other Brussels-based organizations working on counter-terrorism. She can be reached at magnaschi@un.org.

UN-EU Strategic Partnership Priorities on Peace Operations and Crisis Management

On 18 June 2021, the International Peace Institute (IPI) and the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) co-hosted a webinar entitled “Taking the UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management to the next level: Priorities 2022-2024”. The objective of the webinar was to enable UN and EU staff to discuss lessons learned from past collaboration and changes in the strategic and operational environments, with a focus on providing input to the future set of a joint UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis

management for the period of 2022-2024. The workshop was organised on behalf of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO), with USG for Peace Operations, Mr. Lacroix, addressing the meeting. Other key UN entities also participated, including the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and Operational Support (DOS). The new set of joint priorities for 2022-24 are set to be formally agreed in December 2021.

NATO Update

The UN has engaged with NATO on a range of technical matters in recent months. For example, on 30 March, DPPA-DPO and NATO held an exchange on the Sahel, where notably the situation in Mali was discussed. On 17 May, USG Lacroix met with NATO ASG for Political Affairs and Security Policy, Bettina Cadenbach, where they discussed technical cooperation between the two organisations, including relating to medical issues, women, peace and security, and training. On 22 September, on the margins of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General met with NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg. They discussed UN-NATO cooperation, particularly NATO's support to UN peacekeeping, as well as the issue of climate security as an emerging priority for NATO. The Secretaries-General also exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan.

On 14 June, NATO leaders welcomed the parameters of the NATO 2030 agenda at their Summit in Brussels. The

NATO 2030 initiative will endeavour to prepare NATO for future challenges and opportunities more effectively through enhanced political consultation and through providing training and capability building to NATO partners. The parameters also include the adoption of an action plan on climate and security. In this regard, Canada has offered to host a NATO Centre of Excellence on Climate and Security with the aim of better understanding, adapting to and mitigating against the security implications of climate change.

At the NATO Defence ministerial in Brussels on 21-22 October, Ministers signed off on a proposal (a Concept for Deterrence and Defence in the Euro-Atlantic Area) to build up deterrence in preparation of any simultaneous incident. The Madrid Summit on 29-30 June 2022 marks the next big event on the NATO calendar, when allies are expected to adopt a new strategic concept.



Picture: OSW Centre for Eastern Studies

View of the entrance of NATO Headquarters in Brussels



Picture: Council of Europe

Official flag of the European Union

EU Update

On 15 September, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivered her annual State of the Union address to the European Parliament, in which she underlined the Commission's commitment to advance on a European Health Union and called on the EU to invest more in its digital sovereignty. Turning towards geopolitics, von der Leyen stressed that Europe must learn how to act in what she called an age of "hyper-competitiveness." She stressed that the crisis in Afghanistan has highlighted the need for stronger cooperation with partners, including NATO, and added that a new EU-NATO joint declaration will be presented before the end of the year. Pointing to the fact that "there will be missions where NATO or the US will not be present, but where Europe should be," she called for increased European military capabilities in the framework of a European Defence Union. As crucial steps towards a Defence Union, she highlighted increased intelligence cooperation, suggesting a "joint situational awareness centre," improved interoperability, which she said could be fostered by waving VAT on defence equipment

produced in Europe, and strengthened cyber defence capabilities. Finally, she announced that together with French President Macron, the EU would convene a European Defence Summit during the French Presidency in the first half of 2022.

As part of the EU's efforts to strengthen its capacity to act autonomously, EU Member States are also advancing on the Strategic Compass for security and defence, a document that aims to strengthen a common European security and defence strategic culture by providing the EU with a joint strategy to respond to new and increasing threats and challenges. On 21 October, during a ministerial workshop organised by the Slovenian Council Presidency, EU Defence Ministers held a debate on the Strategic Compass before the presentation of a first draft at the EU joint foreign and defence ministerial meeting on 15 November.

On 16 November, EU Defence Ministers discussed the first draft of the Strategic Compass in some detail. Speaking at a press conference after the session, HR/VP Borrell gave an overview of the Compass, stating that

Member States agree that the threat landscape is becoming more complex, that “the classic distinction between war and peace is diminishing” and that the world is “full of hybrid dynamics.” The four pillars of the Compass, i.e. action, security, investment and partnerships, are designed to address this new hybrid reality, he added.

Climate remains high on the European agenda. On 14 July, the European Commission presented the “Fit for 55” package, intended to facilitate an EU greenhouse gas emissions cut of 55% by 2030 compared to 1990. The objective of a climate-neutral EU by 2050 was set into legislation on 28 June, when the Council adopted the European Climate law. In addition to its internal measures, the EU also continues to push for an ambitious global response to the climate threat. In her State of the Union address, Commission President von der Leyen called on other countries to follow the EU’s example and present concrete roadmaps and legal instruments to ensure that climate neutrality will be reached by mid-century.

As part of the ongoing Conference on the Future of Europe, which provides a space to reflect upon the future of the EU as well as reforms of EU policies and institutions, citizens’ panels have held their first round of meetings in September and October. The panels, which deal with a broad range of topics ranging from social justice, the rule of law and democracy to climate change and the EU’s role in the world, will formulate recommendations which will feed into the final Conference report, which will be presented upon the Conference’s conclusion in spring 2022.

In view of myriad global challenges, reinvesting in multilateralism merits reflections also in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe.



Picture: JOHN THYS / AFP

HR/VP Josep Borrell holds a press conference during a Foreign Affairs Council meeting at the EU headquarters in Brussels on November 15, 2021.

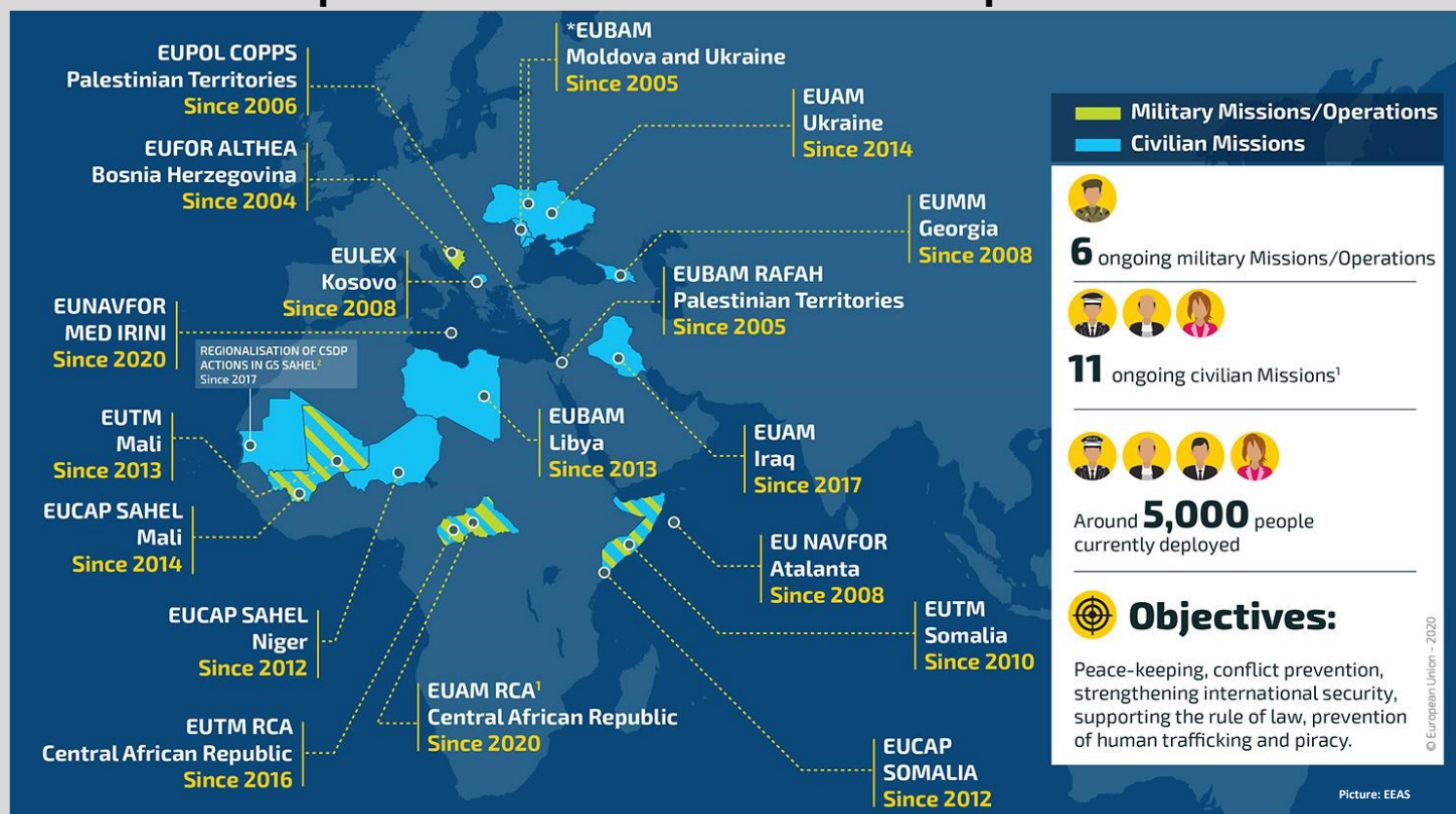
Developments on EU Policies Relating to Peace and Security

- On 17 February, the EEAS and the European Commission published a Joint Communication on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism. The Communication outlines what the EU wants for and from the multilateral system; sets out how the EU can achieve what it wants by reinforcing the system and its ability to deliver; and points to what the EU can do to leverage its strength more effectively. The Communication also calls for EU-UN Summits and expresses support for Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and UN work on Counter-Terrorism.
- The European Parliament formally signed off on the EUR 7.9 billion European Defence Fund (EDF) on 29 April, marking a major joint initiative to support military research, procurement and cooperation between EU member states.
- On 10 May, the Council of the EU adopted a new strategic framework for the Horn of Africa replacing the 2011 Horn of Africa Strategy (updated 2015). An objective in the new strategy is to improve the EU's effectiveness and visibility in an "increasingly competitive environment", and to strengthen the EU's partnership with Horn of Africa countries. In the context of shifting regional dynamics and increasing instability, the strategy focuses on supporting regional efforts and democratic transitions in the Horn, with a focus on human rights, women, youth and civil society.
- On 10 May, the EU Council approved conclusions on Security and Defence in which the EU states that it remains committed to enhancing its ability to act as a global security provider through its operational engagement, notably CSDP missions and operations. The conclusions also welcome the "substantial progress" on the implementation of the 2019-2021 EU-UN priorities on peace operations and crisis management.
- The EU's new Strategy on the Indo-Pacific, presented on 16 September, sets out 7 priority areas for engagement with Indo-Pacific partners, including in the area of security and defence. The EU aims for an enhanced naval presence in the region and encourages greater participation of Indo-Pacific partners in CSDP missions and operations.
- On 13 October, the EU published its new Arctic Strategy. In view of the growing threat of climate change and geopolitical competition in the region, the strategy lays out plans to maintain peace and security in the region, notably through stepping up diplomatic efforts and enhancing strategic foresight on Arctic security risks, in particular related to climate change. The EU also aims to strengthen international ocean governance, in particular UNCLOS, as a means for the peaceful settlement of disputes.
- On 19 October, the Council adopted conclusions inviting the EU and member states to further develop the EU cybersecurity crisis management framework, including by exploring the potential of a joint cyber unit. In order to define the objectives and priorities of a potential cyber unit, the Council proposes a mapping of information sharing gaps and needs within and across cyber communities.
- On 19 October, the Commission adopted the 2021 Enlargement Package, in which it urges Member States to open accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia before the end of this year. The report stresses that Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to address the codified 14 key priorities before the Commission could recommend granting candidate status to the country.
- The Commission published its 2021 Strategic Foresight Report on 9 September. The report identifies four important structural global trends towards 2050 that it considers will affect the EU's capacity to act on the global stage: climate change and environmental challenges; digital hyperconnectivity and technological transformations; pressure on democracy and values; and shifts in the global order and demography. The report subsequently outlines 10 key areas of action for the EU which it considers crucial in view of ensuring Europe's long-term strategic autonomy. This includes working closely with global partners to promote peace, security and prosperity for all, including through supporting "a truly inclusive, networked multilateralism."



Cover of the 2021 Strategic Foresight Report

Update: EU CSDP Missions and Operations



Overview of EU CSDP missions (excluding EUTM Mozambique)

There are currently eighteen EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, 14 of which are deployed in parallel with UN missions. Around 5,000 EU military and civilian staff currently work in CSDP missions and operations.

The mandates of EUCAP Somalia, EUTM Somalia, EUMM Georgia, and Operation ATALANTA have this year been extended until December 2022. The Council also expanded the mandate of Operation ATALANTA to include some secondary executive tasks in countering trafficking of weapons and narcotic drugs, as well as non-executive tasks related to monitoring illegal activities at sea off the coast of Somalia. The mandate of EUCAP Sahel Niger runs until September 2022. The mission is currently focusing on empowering the internal security forces (ISF), including through delivering more regionally focused training. EUCAP Sahel Mali was extended this year until January 2023 and was equally equipped with an enhanced mandate. For the years to come, a stronger emphasis will be put on advising and supporting resource management of the ISF, preventing and fighting corruption and impunity, redeployment of

the ISF to the centre of Mali, and support to the redeployment of the civilian administration to the centre in line with principles of good governance. In addition, the Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell will put a special focus on increasing coordination between CSDP missions in the Sahel and on improving coordination with the G5 Sahel. The Council also extended the mandate of EUTM Mali until May 2024 and its sister mission in the Central African Republic, EUTM RCA, until September 2022. EUTM Mali has now an enhanced mandate moving away from a centralised training and advisory strategy in the direction of a more decentralised approach with a so-called 'accompaniment' element.

On 12 July, the European Council adopted a decision setting up an EU military training mission in Mozambique (EUTM Mozambique). The primary task of the mission is to support a more efficient and effective response by the Mozambican armed forces to the crisis in Cabo Delgado in compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law. The mandate of EUTM Mozambique, which has its headquarters in Maputo and a budget of EUR 15.16 million, has been approved for two years.



Picture: Slovenian Council Presidency

*European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša
in front of the logo of the Slovenian EU Council Presidency*

The Slovenian EU Council Presidency

A closer look at the Presidency's priorities on peace and security matters

Slovenia has been holding the six-month presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2021, assuming this role for the second time after thirteen years. The slogan of its presidency is "Together. Resilient. Europe."

On 1 July, Slovenia took over the Council Presidency from Portugal. The priorities of the Slovenian Presidency include the EU's recovery, resilience and strategic autonomy; the rule of law and European values; and increasing security and stability in the European neighbourhood. On peace and security matters, the presidency is working on strengthening the common foreign and security policy

(CFSP) and the common security and defence policy (CSDP).

The presidency's clear geographic focus is the Western Balkans. In line with the Slovenian Council Presidency priorities, an EU-Western Balkans Summit on 6 October addressed issues including connectivity, climate and water, youth, reconciliation and hybrid threats.

Furthermore, an Eastern Partnership Summit is planned to take place during the Slovenian Presidency on 15 December. The main themes of the Summit are expected to be reforms, resilience and post-pandemic recovery.



Picture: Pascal Le Segretain/Getty Images

The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, illuminated in the colours of the EU flag

The Upcoming French EU Council Presidency

France will hold the EU Council Presidency from 1 January to 30 June 2022. The EU Strategic Compass on Security and Defence is expected to be high on the EU agenda during the French Presidency. The latest EU-Africa Summit will also take place during the presidency.

For France, a founding member of the EU, its upcoming presidency will be the 13th in EU history, but the first since the Lisbon Treaty came into force on 1 December 2009. In addition to the neighbourhood, there will be a strong focus on Africa in the coming months, with an EU-Africa Summit taking place most likely on 17 and 18 February 2022. The summit is expected to delve into common priorities, opportunities and challenges in EU-Africa partnership on a host of issues from trade, to development,

human rights and peace and security.

It can be expected that the debate on strategic autonomy will continue in the months ahead. The Strategic Compass was launched in 2020 and is expected to be adopted by EU member states in March in the course of the French Presidency. The Strategic Compass aims to establish improved connections between the strategic and operational level, also in response to external crises. It is structured around four interlinked thematic baskets, namely crisis management, defence capabilities, resilience, and partnerships - including partnership with the UN. France will commence a new presidency trio, with the Czech Republic and Sweden to follow. It is expected that enhancing multilateralism will remain a key theme throughout the mandate of the presidency trio.

UN-EU Partnership on Transitions

Recalling that UN transitions, involving the withdrawal or drawdown of UN peace operations, represent a moment of heightened risk to the host nation and the international community, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2594 (2021) highlighting the crucial role played by peace operations, stressing the need for their engagement at the earliest stages in planning transitions alongside UN system partners, host country authorities and other actors.

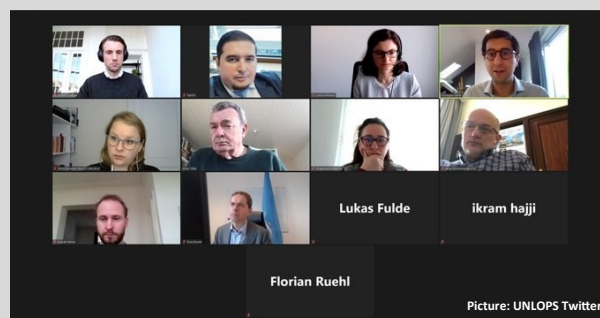
With the support of UNLOPS, the UN Transitions Project

continued its partnership engagement with EU and other Brussels-based actors. Following the deployment of a Transitions Consultant in May 2020, the Transitions Project seeks to find new ways to deepen the UN-EU strategic partnership through a joint stock-taking exercise conducted jointly with the EEAS.

In the framework of the exercise, the Transitions Project has facilitated consultations on thematic files relevant to UN Transitions as well as supported discussions on the transition in county settings.

Examples of UNLOPS Outreach Activities

- UNLOPS convened an informal roundtable with the think tank community in Brussels on 26 February with a focus on the European perspective on multilateralism, and an emphasis on peace and security. Participants called for a shift to inclusive societal approaches and supported the Secretary-General's call for 'networked multilateralism'.
- As part of the UN Transitions Project, Lukas Fulde from UNLOPS participated in an exchange with the EEAS on the UN Transition in the DRC on 22 June, and held additional consultations with EU actors over the summer period.
- On 5 July, Head of UNLOPS Rory Keane provided a lecture at the GPSSS Summer School organised by the Global Governance Institute (GGI) and the Belgian Royal Military Academy (RMA) with a focus on "The future of the United Nations in a Geopolitical World", emphasising the importance of trust building as a core challenge in today's multilateral landscape.
- EU member states within the Politico-Military Group (PMG) were briefed by Rory Keane, Head of UNLOPS, on relevant UN work on 22 September. UNLOPS also briefed the EU Military Staff on relevant workstreams on 21 September with a focus on Action for Peacekeeping Plus (A4P+).
- On 29 September, Halil Kosumi from UNLOPS provided a briefing on EU-UN partnership during a High Level Course organised by the Royal Higher Institute for Defence and the European Security and Defence College.
- On 6 October, Halil Kosumi from UNLOPS updated on the "UN-EU partnership and cooperation in the field" at the pre-deployment training for CSDP Missions and Operations, hosted in Brussels by the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).
- On 25 October, Rory Keane joined the EEAS 2021 Roundtable on CSDP Partnerships and welcomed focus on UN partnership within the EU Strategic Compass, which chimes with 'Our Common Agenda' and A4P.
- On 16 November, at an informal peace and security roundtable, Carole Magnaschi and Lena Hillmeier from UNLOPS briefed colleagues from UN agencies, funds and programmes in Brussels on UN-EU partnership priorities in the area of peace and security.



UNLOPS engaging European thinkers in a virtual conference on how to move to inclusive multilateralism

Sample of Visits and Meetings

Several UN visits and meetings related to peace and security took place in Brussels during the reporting period:

- An EEAS-UN webinar on 03 March focussed on the EU's Civilian CSDP Compact, which aims to make EU civilian CSDP missions more effective, but also to leverage EU member states to contribute more to civilian CSDP missions.
- On 5 May, the first EU-UN workshop on climate change and security and defence took place between the UN Department of Operational Support, the EEAS and European Defence Agency to discuss the environmental footprint of field missions, strategic mitigation priorities and best practices in areas such as energy efficiency, water and waste management.
- On 18 June, IPI and EUISS hosted a consultation on behalf of the UN and EEAS to seek EU member state input on the future set of joint UN-EU strategic partnership on peace operations and crisis management for the period 2022-2024, with USG Lacroix addressing the meeting.
- From 22 to 24 June, the Office of Military Affairs in DPO and the Department of Operational Support (DOS) held virtually their third table-top exercise (ITX) on EU – UN cooperation on logistics. The exercise discussed logistic implications in a setting where UN and EU forces work together.
- The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Huang Xia, visited Brussels from 19-20 July and again on 14-15 October to hold meetings with key EU interlocutors.
- Council President Charles Michel, Commission President von der Leyen and HR/VP Borrell met jointly with Secretary-General Guterres in the margins of the General Assembly. The Secretary General and the EU leadership highlighted the importance of a strong EU-UN partnership, and agreed to continued close cooperation, including through regular high-level meetings.
- Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and Head of MINUSCA Mankeur Ndiaye addressed the European Parliament on 24 February in a joint session organized by the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and Sub Committee on Security and Defence. SRSG Ndiaye furthermore visited Brussels on 15-16 July where he met with EEAS officials and EU member states..
- The SRSG for Somalia and Head of UNSOM, James Swan, visited Brussels on 3 and 4 August to hold meetings with key EU interlocutors.
- On 8 October, SRSG and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Nicholas Haysom visited Brussels (see picture below). He discussed with EU representatives, including member states, current opportunities and challenges for South Sudan and had an exchange about the EU's programming priorities, including humanitarian support.
- The Head of the DPPA Electoral Assistance Division, Craig Jenness, visited Brussels on 16 November and held meetings with EU officials on election-related matters.
- On 23 November USG Lacroix briefed the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) meeting virtually. He welcomed the progress in finalising the UN-EU Priorities on Peace Operations and Crisis Management for the period of 2022-24.
- On 24 November SRSG for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, Deborah Lyons, held meetings in Brussels with EEAS and European Commission Officials and exchanged with a range of EU PSC Ambassadors.



Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Nicholas Haysom.

Outlook

A range of upcoming meetings and milestones in the Brussels context



Official flags of the UN and the EU

- The next general EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) (Foreign Ministers) will take place on 13 December 2021.
- A NATO foreign affairs ministerial will be held in Riga on 1 December 2021.
- On 15 December 2021, an EU Eastern Partnership summit will take place in Brussels under the Slovenian Council Presidency.
- The next European Council meeting will take place on 16-17 December 2021.
- An AU-EU Summit with European and African heads of state and government is set to take place in Brussels on 17-18 February 2022.
- There will be a meeting of the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management in the first half of 2022.
- A NATO Summit will take place in Madrid on 29-30 June 2022.
- The EU is planning to convene a European Council in March 2022, when security and defence may be high on the agenda.
- In early 2022, a EU-UN High Level Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism will take place.
- Commission President von der Leyen proclaimed 2022 the Year of European Youth and announced that youth would be heavily involved in the ongoing conference on the Future of Europe.



UNITED NATIONS LIAISON OFFICE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

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