



## 2017: the EU's year on security and defence



EU Foreign and Defence Ministers at the signing ceremony officially launching the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation, 13 November 2017. Credit: Tauno Töhk/EU2017EE

At the end of 2017 HRVP Mogherini lauded a breakthrough on security and defence policy with the agreement by 25 EU member states to launch Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). These EU countries will develop defence capabilities and enhance the operational readiness of armed forces with a view to enabling militaries to plan, spend and deploy together. In addition, 17 PESCO projects have been announced, ranging from common military training, the development of a medical command, and a EUFOR rapid response core, which have potential for synergy with UN peace operations. PESCO will be linked to a European Defence Fund and complemented by an annual defence review (CARD) to help address European capability shortfalls and ensure coherence between national defence spending plans. In addition to launching PESCO, EU member states also agreed in 2017 to establish a permanent operations military headquarters in Brussels for non-executive Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) military training missions. (continue on next page)

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The EU further agreed on a EUR 100 million package up to 2020 for capacity building for security and development, enabling the EU to provide non-lethal equipment for the security sector in partner countries. Work has also been taken forward around stabilization policy, with the launching for the first time of a stabilization "action" under Article 28 of the Lisbon Treaty in central Mali, in close coordination with MINUSMA. The EU also established a civilian security sector reform CSDP mission in Iraq in 2017 (the first such mission since EUFOR in the Central African Republic was deployed in 2014 to bridge to MINUSCA). These developments constitute part of a wider process in implementing the European External Action Service (EEAS) 2016 Global Strategy, for which security and defence was the priority in 2017. Looking ahead to "year two" of the Global Strategy, support to multilateralism, including UN reform processes and conflict prevention, are amongst the priorities of the EEAS.

## Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Bulgaria took up the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January 2018. Bulgaria has committed to using its six-months Presidency to deliver a tangible European perspective for the Western Balkans. The Bulgarian Presidency will draw up conclusions of the Council of the EU based on the Commission's Western Balkans accession strategy released in February 2018 and the "Enlargement package" to be published in April 2018, while on 17 May 2018 a Western Balkans Summit will take place in Sofia. The UK will also host a summit with EU and Western Balkan leaders this year. The rotating Presidency has limited powers in the realm of foreign and security policy, where the European External Action Service holds the permanent chair of the Council. In line with EU foreign policy priorities in the area of security and defence, the Bulgarian Presidency will aim to put a focus on the development of civilian capabilities and capacity building for security and development (for which the EU has already authorized the expenditure of EUR 100 million until 2020). Bulgaria will seek to deepen EU-NATO cooperation, including in the areas of counter-terrorism, situational awareness and capacity building of partner countries. The Bulgarian Presidency will also support the efforts of the Member States and the institutions to develop a well-functioning, inclusive and ambitious Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).



Bulgarian PM Boyko Borissov presented his country's plans for the Council presidency in the European Parliament plenary © European Union 2018 - EP

## NATO update

During the reporting period NATO's enhanced forward presence in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland became fully operational and NATO defence ministers took steps to bolster the NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan with additional troops. NATO's membership was also increased for the first time in eight years when Montenegro officially joined as NATO's 29th member country on 5 June 2017.

Following the request from the Libyan government for NATO to help build effective defence and security institutions, Secretary General Stoltenberg met with Libyan Prime Minister al-Sarraj on 22 June 2017 to discuss how the Alliance could best support this effort.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Credit: NATO

NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg met with Secretary-General Guterres in New York on 20 September and discussed UN-NATO cooperation and the potential for UN-NATO partnership on a range of technical areas. Two such areas, namely Counter-IED and women, peace and security were highlighted by NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General, James Appathurai, during his remarks at the Vancouver UN peacekeeping ministerial on 14/15 November 2017. Having joined the anti-ISIS coalition last year, the 5 December 2017 North Atlantic Council discussed NATO's role in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and agreed to continue NATO training in Iraq and

Afghanistan and to support a crisis management center in Jordan. On 12 December 2017, the mandate of the NATO Secretary General was extended by two years, until 30 September 2020, while on 08 January 2018 former UN Gender Adviser, Clare Hutchinson, took up her post as NATO's new Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.

Looking ahead, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will chair the North Atlantic Council at the level of Defence Ministers on 14-15 February and at Foreign Ministers level in April in preparation for the Brussels NATO Summit on 11/12 July. The Defence Council will make decisions regarding the organization of the Alliance's Command Structure. The 29 Defence Ministers will also discuss the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan, and NATO-EU cooperation will be taken up by both the Defence and Foreign Ministers. The discussion on NATO-EU relations will touch upon the launch of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and European Defence Fund investments, and how the burgeoning NATO-EU relationship can be deepened even further, with a view to the NATO Summit in July. Foreign Ministers will also review the NATO Open Door policy, particularly with developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Georgia. Besides EU-NATO cooperation, other agenda items planned for the Summit include defence and deterrence, projecting stability, alliance modernization and burden sharing, which US President Trump has been vocally advocating. The United Nations will be invited to discuss Afghanistan with the Heads of State and Government in Brussels in July.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg with new NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security Clare Hutchinson

Source: <https://twitter.com/jensstoltenberg>

## High-level visits to NY



Meeting between MEPs from the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee and UNGA President Miroslav Lajčák,  
Source: <https://twitter.com/davidmcallister>

The EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) Ambassadors also paid their annual visit to UN headquarters on 29-30 June 2017, where they held an informal session with the UN Security Council, as well as a range of meetings with senior UN Secretariat officials. The PSC's annual visit to UN headquarters makes a key contribution in forging UN-EU partnership on peace and security.

From 29 to 31 October 2017, a European Parliament delegation consisting of MEPs from the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) and its sub-committees on security and defence and human rights travelled to New York to prepare their annual report for the 73rd UN General Assembly. The delegation - led by AFET committee chair MEP David McAllister - held meetings with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, General-Assembly President Miroslav Lajčák, Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman.



The EU's PSC Ambassadors were hosted by the Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, Mr. João Vale de Almeida, in New York.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/EUatUN>

## Eastern Partnership Summit

On 24 November the 5th Eastern Partnership (EaP) summit brought together the EU, its Member States and the six Eastern partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in Brussels. The summit enabled important stock-taking, including implementation of the existing agreements. The Summit agreed on 20 deliverables for 2020 that were developed by the EU in December 2016 and also adopted a Joint Summit Declaration that was the result of lengthy negotiations and compromise. The EU and Armenia also signed their Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement in the margins of the Summit.



Family Photo of the 5<sup>th</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit, Copyright: European Union

## USG for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix engages Europe on peacekeeping

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, participated in the informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers, which took place in Tallinn, Estonia on 7 September. He spoke about the essential EU contribution to global peace and security, particularly support for AMISOM and activities in Mali, including through support for the G5 Sahel Joint Force. He welcomed the leadership shown by the EU and its member states in supporting the G5, alongside the EU's decision to provide financial support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force. He briefed Ministers on some of the critical UN peacekeeping gaps that need to be filled to support the execution of UN mandates. Emphasising that the UN-EU partnership is on a strong footing, USG Lacroix welcomed European participation at the UN CHODs meeting in July 2017 and briefed European Ministers on plans for the Vancouver Ministerial on peacekeeping, scheduled to take place on 14/15 November 2017. The USG continued his engagement with European member states visiting Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and France and later in the year travelled to Brussels on 22/23 November where he discussed UN-EU partnership with HR/VP Mogherini bilaterally (see picture) and explored further cooperation with the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Didier Reynders. Together with EEAS Deputy Secretary-General Pedro Serrano, Mr. Lacroix co-chaired the regular six-monthly UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management on 23 November in Brussels. The Steering Committee agreed on a range of action points to further concretise the UN-EU partnership, ranging from support in logistics and practical cooperation in Mali and support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, follow up on security and justice sector cooperation in the Central African Republic, engagement in Somalia and support for the trilateral partnership initiative between the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union. The Steering Committee also afforded an opportunity to reflect on future joint priorities for the UN-EU partnership in the context of the UN reform agenda and agreed to continue the reflections in the months ahead on how to further embed the strategic partnership on peace and security. While in Brussels, the USG also spoke at a panel on peace and security at the European Parliament high-level conference "Towards a renewed partnership with Africa", co-chaired by the AFET Chair, MEP David McAllister.



Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, with the EU's High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini

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## EU operational focus on Mali/Sahel

On 4 August 2017 the EU adopted a decision authorising a stabilisation action in the central region of Mali, in the Mopti and Segou areas. Subsequently a team of experts was deployed in January 2018 to support the Malian authorities in their efforts to reinstate the civilian administration and basic services in the region. This is the first stabilisation action of its kind, based on Article 28 of the Treaty on the European Union, representing a new instrument at the disposal of EU foreign and security policy objectives. The EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) underwent a strategic review currently under consideration by EU member states, which was discussed during the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management, taking place on 23 November 2017.

A number of VTCs between UN and EU headquarters in recent months, as well as a joint technical mission to Mali, have focused on how best to jointly support the G5 Sahel Joint Force in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2391 and specifically the call to establish an EU coordinated financing mechanism to channel voluntary contributions to reimburse the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) for specified support provided to the Joint Force when operating in Mali. A Brussels donor conference slated for 23 February 2018 is in the pipeline to support this initiative. On the logistics front in recent months MINUSMA has provided support to EUTM decentralised activities in central Mali, while a technical agreement has facilitated good cooperation between MINUSMA and EUCAP Mali Sahel. The UN is also closely following the EU's regional security sector related mapping work carried out in the five Sahel countries and the potential for future cooperation in line with the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

## EU-AU Summit

The Secretary-General attended the EU-AU Summit on 29-30 November 2017 in Abidjan with a theme of "Investing in Youth for a Sustainable Future". These Summits, taking place every three years since 2000, are attended by EU and AU leaders and the heads of state and government of African and European states. A key point of discussion was the successor agreement to the Cotonou agreement, which expires in 2020, and will focus on political relations, development, migration, security and terrorism. It will have a strong emphasis on developing growth through private sector investment rather than development cooperation alone (the EU's External Investment Plan hopes to mobilize EUR 44 billion). There will likely be a differentiated legal basis within the new agreement that recognizes the regional arrangements (African Union, CARICOM, Pacific Islands Forum). The Secretary-General met with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, Commission President Juncker and HR/VP Mogherini and discussed the situation of migrants and refugees inside Libya. A joint EU-AU-UN Task Force to assist voluntary returns to countries of origin and the resettlement of those in need of international protection was agreed, and has since met at technical, operational and political level.



Picture including Mr Moussa FAKI MAHAMAT, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Ms Federica MOGHERINI, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; Mr Antonio GUTERRES, UN Secretary-General; Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER, President of the European Commission. Copyright: European Union

## UN visitors to Brussels

The **UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Sigrid Kaag, (since appointed Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of The Netherlands)** and the **Chief of the Mediation Unit of the Department of Political Affairs, Asif Khan**, participated in a high-level meeting with the European Institute of Peace on 31 May. Mr. Khan also briefed the EU Group of Friends of Mediation on 30 May. On 1 June, Ms. Kaag briefed the EU PSC Ambassadors and held meetings with European External Action Service and Commission officials.

As part of the Strategic Assessment Review of UNSMIL in Libya, the review's external facilitator, **Jean-Marie Guéhenno**, visited Brussels on 6 June and held meetings with EU and NATO officials, as well as with PSC Ambassadors of several EU member states to get their input into the Strategic Review.

**Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, Michael Keating**, visited Brussels on 16 June to brief the EU PSC Ambassadors on the situation in Somalia and to meet with high-level EEAS and Commission officials (pictured on the right with EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs Jean-Christophe Belliard). He also held several bilateral meetings with EU member state PSC Ambassadors. He visited again on 22 and 23 November and attended the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management.



**Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Martin Kobler**, held an exchange of views on Libya with the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on 20 June. In a statement on 22 June, HR/VP Mogherini paid tribute to Martin Kobler for his work and commitment in advancing peace in Libya, expressing confidence that, with the foreseen appointment of Mr. Ghassan Salamé, the UN will stay at the forefront of mediation work with all stakeholders in Libya.

**UN Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP), Ivan Šimonović**, spoke at the European Parliament's public hearing 'Global Political Commitment on the Responsibility to Protect' on 20 June. He announced the Secretary-General Report on RtoP to address accountability for prevention and asked MEPs to use their leverage to advance the RtoP concept.

**UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, Said Djinnit**, visited Brussels on 29 June and met with senior officials from the European External Action Service and the European Commission. Discussions focused on the UN strategic framework for the Great Lakes, with the European Commission committing to look into options to support the framework, possibly via the UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

On 4 September, **UN Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom**, met with senior officials from the European External Action Service in Brussels and participated in a working lunch with PSC Ambassadors hosted by the Swedish Permanent Representation. He was also the key note speaker at an EU event on mediation.

**Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), François Louncény Fall**, visited Brussels on 8 September to meet with European External Action Service counterparts.

The **UN Special Envoy on Burundi, Michel Kafando**, visited Brussels on 12 and 13 October to meet with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Didier Reynders as well as with high-level officials from the European External Action Service.



UNSE Kafando with EEAS Managing Director for Africa Koen Vervaeke



Special Adviser Dieng together with EEAS Deputy Secretary General Christian Leffler

**Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng**, visited Brussels on 9 and 10 November. He had an exchange with the EU's PSC Ambassadors as well as meetings with high-level officials from the European External Action Service and the EU's Foreign Policy Instrument.

On 5 and 6 December, **Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in DPKO, Alexander Zouev**, visited Brussels to hold high-level meetings with the European External Action Service, the European Commission, as well as with NATO. ASG Zouev also took this opportunity to brief EU member states at a joint session of the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom) and Politico-Military Group (PMG) working groups of the EU Council.

On 7 and 8 December, **Under-Secretary-General of the UN Counter-Terrorism Office, Vladimir Voronkov**, visited Brussels and held meetings with high-level officials in the European External Action Service and the European Commission on counter-terrorism issues. USG Voronkov also briefed the EU's PSC Ambassadors.

**Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) Mohamed Ibn Chambas** participated in a discussion on cooperation with the G5 Sahel at the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 11 December. He reiterated the importance of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel as the basis for engagement.

On 11-12 December 2017, the **Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Matthew Nimetz**, met with Representatives of the Governments of the Hellenic Republic and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Brussels. The meeting took place in the framework of the United Nations' efforts to assist the sides in finding a mutually acceptable solution to the "name" issue.



On 9 January, the **Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, Horst Köhler**, visited Brussels and met with HR/VP Federica Mogherini (pictured here on the left) and other high-level EU officials. In a public statement, Mogherini stressed the EU's resolute support for the UN's renewed efforts in Western Sahara.

On 23 January, the **Force Commander (FC) of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, Major General Jean-Paul Deconinck**, addressed the EU Military Committee and held meetings with high level EU officials. His address to the EUMC was the first of its kind by a serving UN Force Commander.

## Sample of Representational activities

UNLOPS held its regular briefings to the EU Council working bodies, including on 17 July 2017 to the Politico-Military Group (PMG), which prepares the military and civil-military agenda points for the PSC. Upon the working group's request, UNLOPS focused its briefing on the Secretary-General's priorities, including the peace and security reform agenda and increased investment in prevention and the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. EU Member States' representatives expressed strong support for the UN and the UN-EU partnership and asked how CSDP and EU Training Missions can be closer linked to the UN's activities in the field. Another briefing to the PMG took place on 6 December 2017, when UNLOPS briefed the Member States' representatives on the outcome of the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in Vancouver and on the UN-EU Steering Committee that had taken place on 23 November 2017.



Head of UNLOPS Rory Keane briefing the European Parliament Working Group on EU-UN relations, 29 June 2017.

On 17 October 2017 UNLOPS provided a briefing on ongoing UN peace and security reforms to the European Council United Nations Working Party (CONUN). The CONUN delegates, made up of representatives from UN divisions in the member states' foreign affairs ministries, expressed their strong support for the Secretary-General's reform agenda and their questions showed a high level of engagement. UNLOPS addressed the CONUN also on 12 December 2017, when the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU hosted an informal meeting of the working group to discuss the role of the Peacebuilding Commission on the ground with Liberia as a case study. The ASG for Peacebuilding Support, Oscar Fernandez Taranco, also briefed at this occasion via VTC.



On 13 July 2017, UNLOPS represented the Electoral Assistance Division in DPA at a seminar on "Preventing election related violence: What Role for Political Mediation and Dialogue" at the European Parliament, co-organized by the EEAS, the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), the European Institute of Peace (EIP) and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO).

On 27–29 June 2017, UNLOPS represented DPKO and DFS at a workshop in Barcelona, Spain, aimed at developing NATO's operational concept on the protection of civilians (PoC). The third in a series, this workshop focused on Facilitating Access to Basic Needs, addressing the military role in humanitarian access.



On 29 June 2017, UNLOPS briefed the members of the revamped European Parliament Working Group on EU-UN relations, chaired by MEP Barbara Lochbihler. Questions from MEPs were related to the situation in DRC, the Gulf, the UN reforms and the UN's response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

On 13 September 2017, UNLOPS participated in a panel discussion on the Colombian peace process, following the screening of the film "To End a War", organized by the UN Regional Information Center (UNRIC) and the Belgian foreign ministry. At the panel, Rory Keane stressed the importance of a Colombia-owned peace process and said that a key to the success of the UN Verification Mission is it being embedded in a political process.



Panel discussion moderated by UNRIC Director Debbie Seward (pictured left).



Annick Hiensch represented UNLOPS at the round-table discussion.

On 31 January 2018, UNLOPS took part in a round-table on "Education and Youth Radicalization" with the Executive Director of Hedayah organized by the Brussels International Centre. EU officials, civil society, education practitioners and academics discussed how capacity building, research and analysis, as well as dialogue activities can inform good practices in education, including in partnership with the United Nations.