



Credit: Slovak presidency

Bratislava centre stage The Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 16 September, Bratislava hosted an informal meeting of the 27 Heads of State and Government in order to discuss the future of the European Union (EU) in the post Brexit environment. The meeting was the first step in a so-called 'Bratislava process' that will culminate in the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome next March. The process will see the EU 27 aim to take on core issues that are critical for the future of the EU, including issues surrounding migration and external borders, internal and external security, and economic and social development.

The 'Bratislava process' puts Slovakia's first ever six-month presidency (from 1st July 2016) of the Council of the European Union centre stage. Slovakia has set out a number of key presidency priorities, including a call for 'a globally engaged Europe'. Issues relating to sustainable migration are high on the agenda, alongside creating an economically strong Europe. In terms of foreign policy, the western Balkans, the

Inside this issue:

<u>Peacekeeping: A Dialogue with European TCCs</u>	2	<u>Logistics and conceptual development: update</u>	5
<u>EU Global Strategy</u>	3	<u>UNLOPS briefings to CONUN and CIVCOM</u>	6
<u>UN-EU Steering Committee and Staff talks</u>	3	<u>High-level visits</u>	6-7
<u>NATO Warsaw Summit</u>	4	<u>Sample of UNLOPS representational activities</u>	8
<u>Seminar on RtoP and Non-State Armed Groups</u>	5		

eastern dimension for the European Neighborhood Policy, EU engagement on Libya and follow up to the EU Global Strategy, including through practical proposals on security and defence, are on the priority list. Slovakia's expertise and leadership in the area of security sector reform (SSR), as the successful co-chair of the United Nations (UN) Group of Friends on SSR, will be beneficial as the EU takes forward its new SSR framework.

The informal EU defence ministerial meetings, hosted in Bratislava on 26-27 September, provided a good opportunity to focus on EU security and defence priorities, notably in view of the EU Global Strategy. As has become the practice in recent years, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hervé Ladsous, participated in the informal defence ministerial meeting with a focus on how to further enhance UN-EU partnership in the area of peacekeeping and crisis management, with a particular focus on Mali. Mr. Ladsous also updated the ministerial on next steps following the successful London ministerial on peacekeeping, which took place on 8 September.

Peacekeeping: A Dialogue with European Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs)



From left to right: Mr. Pedro Serrano, EEAS Deputy Secretary General for CSDP and Crisis Response; Dr. Antonio Missiroli, Director of the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS); and General Adrian Foster, Deputy Military Adviser UN DPKO. Credit : EUISS

In advance of the London ministerial on peacekeeping on 8 September 2016, UNLOPS, together with the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and the German Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), co-organized a dialogue on peacekeeping with European TCCs on 13 July in Brussels, including senior level speakers from the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden, as well as the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). Some key observations from the seminar encompassed the importance of European involvement in UN peacekeeping operations, as exemplified by the engagement of a number of European countries in UN operations in Mali, Lebanon and the Golan Heights, for example. EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) parallel and bridging operations with the United Nations were also highlighted as critical, including the recent example in the Central African Republic. It was pointed out that cooperation between European countries can be an effective way of engaging in UN peacekeeping, as in the example of the cooperation between Finland, Ireland and Estonia in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The need for managed planning processes and the need to match needs with resources in a timely manner were also discussed. In this regard, the UN updated the seminar on the UN peacekeeping Capability Readiness System established after the 2015 UN Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping.

EU Global Strategy on Foreign Policy and Security



Ms. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP), published the EU Global Strategy on Foreign Policy and Security on 28 June 2016. The Global Strategy replaces the 2003 European Security Strategy and sets out the EU's core interests and principles for engaging in the world. It includes priorities relating to the security of the EU, state

and society resilience, an integrated approach to conflict, cooperative regional orders, and global governance. The Global Strategy refers to the UN as a core partner, calling it "the bedrock" of the multilateral rules-based order. The Strategy reaffirms that the EU will strive for a strong UN and that it will work with the UN on the vast majority of global governance issues. The Strategy states that "believing in the UN means investing in it" and calls for the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) to assist and complement UN peacekeeping through bridging, stabilization or other operations. The Global Strategy also stresses the EU's determination to reform the UN, so that it can "meet the challenges of the 21st century". Additionally, the Strategy calls on EU Member States to enhance the deployability and interoperability of their forces for peacekeeping efforts through training and exercises. It foresees greater EU involvement in preventive diplomacy and mediation through its Delegations and emphasizes that the EU will redouble its work on prevention as well as peacebuilding efforts.

UN-EU Steering Committee and Rapid Response Staff Talks

On 14 July, the 20th meeting of the bi-annual UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management took place in Brussels. On the UN side, the meeting was co-chaired by Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. EEAS Deputy Secretary General for CSDP and Crisis Response, Mr. Pedro Serrano, chaired on the EU side.

The meeting focused on practical UN-EU cooperation in the Central African Republic, Burundi, Mali and the Sahel, and Somalia. Participants also had an exchange of views on Libya with Mr. Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). On Mali, the participants agreed to enhance MINUSMA's (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali) logistical support on the ground for the EU Training Mission. Furthermore, participants discussed the way forward on UN-EU cooperation in international policing by sharing best practices on the inclusion of gender perspectives and by making use of the Strategic Guidance Framework for policing that the UN recently developed. Participants also agreed to cooperate on enhanced information and analysis exchange and to share best practices and lessons learned on performance in mission settings.



From left to right: Ms. Nannette Ahmed, Director Africa II DPKO; General Adrian Foster, Deputy Military Adviser UN DPKO; Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Mr. Stefan Feller, Police Adviser, DPKO. Credit: UNOPS

8

In the margins of the Steering Committee, the UN and the EU held a first round of staff talks on rapid response. A number of practical recommendations were outlined, including the development of joint exercises on rapid response and further exploring cooperation with the European Gendarmerie Force (EUROGENDFOR). The participants discussed the follow-up to the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping and the UN's Peacekeeping Capabilities Readiness System, as well as modalities for CSDP action for bridging to UN peacekeeping operations and rapid response financing. Also in the margins of the Steering Committee, UN Police Adviser, Mr. Stefan Feller, briefed the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) on the outcome and main conclusions of the UN Chiefs of Police Summit that took place in New York in June.

NATO Warsaw Summit



Heads of State at the 27th NATO Summit in Warsaw. Credit : EEAS

At the NATO Summit held in Warsaw on 8-9 July 2016, Heads of State and Government took decisions to boost security on the basis of two key pillars: protecting NATO countries' citizens through modern deterrence and defence by showing more military presence at the eastern and southeastern borders of the Alliance, and projecting stability beyond NATO's borders, in particular by supporting partners with training and institutional capacity building.

In operational terms, NATO decided to strengthen the Alliance's military presence in the east with four battalions in Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. NATO will also expand its maritime presence in the Mediterranean Sea and agreed to enhance the Alliance's contribution to the efforts of the Global Coalition to counter ISIL. NATO's leaders further decided to continue the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan beyond 2016 and to terminate Operation Ocean Shield in the Gulf of Aden, as it has achieved its strategic objectives.

NATO leaders decided to step up cooperation with the European Union on maritime security and countering hybrid threats. Concrete examples of practical cooperation with the UN were also welcomed. The Summit saw the endorsement of the new NATO Policy on the Protection of Civilians, which had seen input from the UN. The implementation of the updated Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was agreed. NATO members also expressed their support to the UN through NATO's participation in the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping in 2015.

Seminar on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) and Non-State Armed Groups

The European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Office of the United Nations Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) jointly organized a seminar on “*Fulfilling the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP): The Threat of Non-State Armed Groups and Their Increased Role in Perpetrating Atrocity Crimes*”, that took place in Brussels on 22 March 2016. The seminar was attended by over 40 participants, including representatives of EU member States, EU and UN officials, academia and civil society and aimed to gain a more in-depth

understanding of non-state armed groups and to identify ways to better prevent and respond to atrocity crimes committed by such groups. The seminar was opened by the newly appointed EU RtoP Focal Point, EEAS Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Christian Leffler, followed by the Head of OSAPG, Ms. Gillian Kitley, and by the outgoing UN Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Professor Jennifer Welsh.



RtoP : Responsibility to Protect

DPA-UNDP Joint Mission on the Syria Post-agreement Planning

On 8 and 9 September 2016, a joint DPA-UNDP Mission on the Syria Post-agreement Planning visited Brussels and held meetings with EU officials. Participants agreed to closely coordinate their planning efforts on Syria. The Syria Post-agreement planning working group has been established under the Inter-Agency Task Force for Syria and was an outcome of the London Pledging Conference on Syria that took place last February.

Update on Logistics and Conceptual Development

In recent months, UNLOPS participated in a number of events in promoting security and defence sector cooperation. On 21 June, UNLOPS participated in the annual European Defence Agency (EDA) Symposium on deployment of capabilities with a focus on Europe's strategic airlift capabilities. The symposium provided the UN with an opportunity to present work on capability planning in view of possible cooperation with the EDA and other organizations, including the European Air Transport Command.



Furthermore, UNLOPS participated at a Logistics Conference and a Conceptual Development and Experimentation Seminar, both organized by the European Union Military Staff (EUMS), on 1-2 June and 5 July respectively. The Logistic Conference investigated logistic solutions aimed at increasing the operational effectiveness of EU missions and operations. The meeting offered the UN an opportunity to learn more about the multinational logistic arrangements between the EUMS and strategic partners. The Conceptual Development seminar provided insight on the conceptual work in the EUMS within the context of the newly developed EU Global Strategy.

With Security Sector Reform (SSR) being a priority for the EU and the international community, the European Commission and the High Representative released a new policy framework, the “*Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council containing elements for an EU wide strategic framework to support SSR*”, on 5 July. Consequently, UN staff participated at the EU's biennial Multilayer Exercise 2016 (12 Sept - 20 October) to stimulate closer cooperation between the UN and EU on SSR.

Related to the conceptual development of NATO's comprehensive approach, representatives of several UN entities (UNODC, OCHA, UNSOM, UNAMI, UNMIK, UNSMIL) participated at the 2016 NATO Comprehensive Approach Awareness Course, organized on 13 - 16 September in Brussels.

Briefings to CONUN and CIVCOM

On 25 May 2016, Mr. Rory Keane, Head of UNLOPS, briefed the EU Council's Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM), composed of representatives from the 28 EU member States. The aim of the presentation was to engage CIVCOM delegates ahead of the United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit (UN COPS) that was held on 2 and 3 June in New York. Several EU member States expressed their interest to be briefed more regularly on UN police issues and specifically on the outcome of UN COPS, the UN Strategic Guidance Framework on policing and the capability gap list for UN policing.

On 20 July 2016, Mr. Keane briefed the representatives from capitals of the 28 EU member States in the EU's United Nations Working Group (CONUN) to discuss current issues, such as priorities and overall positions ahead of the UN General Assembly and the 19 September high-level meeting on large movements of migrants and refugees. It also provided UNLOPS with an opportunity to give the CONUN an overview of the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management that took place earlier in July. Member States noted their commitment to supporting UN planning and analysis, the Women, Peace and Security agenda and recalled that the new EU Global Strategy highlighted the need for investment in UN peacekeeping, peacebuilding and mediation.

High-level visits

Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, UN Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel

The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, visited Brussels on 12-14 April to meet with EU officials, including the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Neven Mimica, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Mr. Christos Stylianides, and the former Chief of Cabinet of HR/VP Federica Mogherini, Mr. Stefano Manservisi. SRSG Ibn Chambas also briefed the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) and met with the Secretary-General of the ACP group. SRSG Ibn Chambas discussed the situation in Mali, Niger, Benin, Senegal, Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as other countries in the region. With the EU interlocutors, he raised the issue of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa that aims to address the root causes and the push factors for migration. Both sides also exchanged views on UN-EU cooperation in the region and coordinated their efforts to support the Sahel G5 countries.

Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, UN Special Envoy for Yemen

The UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, visited Brussels on 4-5 April and met with a range of EU interlocutors, including HR/VP Mogherini, Commissioner for Humanitarian aid and civil protection, Mr. Christos Stylianides, and the PSC. The Special Envoy had in-depth exchanges with EU counterparts on the situation and the perspectives for Yemen in the short and medium terms. The Special Envoy thanked the EU for its support to the Joint Verification and Inspection Mechanism and the de-escalation committee, ahead of the cessation of hostilities on 10 April. After their meeting, HR/VP Mogherini held a joint press statement with the Special Envoy, stating that the EU will continue to pledge political and practical support to the peace process in Yemen, while continuing to provide substantial resources in the form of humanitarian aid. HR/VP Mogherini stressed that Yemen is in a strategic position for the whole region and for the Horn of Africa. She underlined that it is in the EU's direct and vital interest to make sure that Yemen does not turn into the next safe haven for terrorist organizations.



Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, UN Special Envoy for Yemen (right), and EU Commissioner for Humanitarian aid and civil protection, Mr. Christos Stylianides (left). Credit: UNLOPS

Mr. Jahangir Khan, Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Centre

The Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Centre, Mr. Jahangir Khan, introduced the UN Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism to EU interlocutors in Brussels on 11 April. Mr. Khan met with senior EU officials, including EEAS Secretary General, Mr. Alain Le Roy, and EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Mr. Gilles de Kerchove. He also exchanged views with a range of Political and Security Committee (PSC) Ambassadors at a lunch briefing hosted by Spain.



Mr. Jahangir Khan (center), Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Centre.

Credit: UNOG



Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, SRSG for Mali and Head of MINUSMA, and EU HR/VP Federica Mogherini. Credit: UNLOPS

Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, UN Special Representative for Mali

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, visited Brussels between 3-6 April. SRSG Annadif met with HR/VP Mogherini, senior EEAS officials, the PSC and with senior Belgian Foreign Ministry officials. Discussions focussed on the implementation of the peace agreement, the security situation in the north, MINUSMA's mandate and the UN-EU partnership on the ground. SRSG Annadif also welcomed the strong engagement of EU member States in supporting MINUSMA with troops and capabilities.



Mr. Michael Keating, SRSG for Somalia (left), with PSC Chair, Ambassador Walter Stevens (right).
Credit: UNLOPS

Mr. Michael Keating, UN Special Representative for Somalia

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, Mr. Michael Keating, visited Brussels on 9 June. He met with the PSC and briefed key EU interlocutors, including EEAS Managing Director for Africa, Mr. Koen Vervaeke, and the European Commission Director for East and Southern Africa, Mr. Koen Doens. SRSG Keating provided an overview of the election process and the security sector in Somalia and welcomed the EU support for Somalia, including EU financial support for AMISOM. There was broad consensus that a clear roadmap for a sustainable security sector is required in Somalia as the basis for an eventual AMISOM transition strategy.

Mr. Adama Dieng, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

The Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Mr. Adama Dieng, visited Brussels on 16 and 17 June to attend a conference on extradition for atrocity crimes organized by the Belgian Ministry of Justice. While in Brussels, the Special Adviser briefed EU member States representatives on a number of countries of concern and held high-level meetings with EU officials to discuss early warning and preventive action.

Sample of UNLOPS representational activities

- Mr. Rory Keane participated in the **International Peace Institute (IPI) Vienna Seminar on 1-2 June**, entitled "Prepared for the Future: Adapting peace operations to a changing world", with the focus on the follow-up to the UN peace operations review. Also related to the implementation of the UN peace operations review, Mr. Keane took part to a workshop organized by the French **Ministry of Defence (DGRIS) and IPI** on 17 June.
- On 9 June, Ms. Annick Hiensch represented the UN in a **seminar organized in Helsinki at the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre** entitled "Cooperation Between International Organizations: Perspectives from the European Union, United Nations and African Union". Organized under the auspices of Nordic Defence Cooperation, the seminar was attended by 60 senior military, police, civilian and development experts from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The panel on international organizations was moderated by Major General (ret) Patrick Cammaert, and featured representatives from the European Union and the African Union (AU)/United Nations Mission in Darfur. Ms. Hiensch's intervention focused on how the UN is improving the performance of its peace operations by increasingly taking into account the political context and improving conflict prevention and mission planning processes, as well as deepening partnerships with the AU and the EU.
- In advance of the UN Peacekeeping defence ministerial on 8 September, Mr. Keane joined a **seminar organized by the United Kingdom (UK) Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence officials** in London on 18 July which brought together approximately 30 representatives from key UK civil society organizations (CSOs) with the aim of getting their input into the ministerial, especially relating to performance and accountability issues and the role of women in peacekeeping.
- On 25 May and on 29 June, Mr. Kamiel Mesie presented UN work at a training organized by the **European Security and Defence College** for staff to be deployed in EU CSDP missions including in Mali, Niger, Kosovo, Libya, Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.



UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in London. Credit: FCO

- Also in May, Col. Christian Eder and Mr. Mesie gave a presentation on UN peacekeeping, integrated assessment and planning as part of the **Catalyst for Change Course at the NATO Airbase in Chièvres**, Belgium. This six-week NATO course aims at preparing troops to be deployed in NATO missions and making them familiar with NATO's "Comprehensive Approach", including the perspective of the United Nations, the Security Council, and the work of other international organizations on the ground.



*Col. Christian Eder.
Credit: UNLOPS*