



United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security | UNLOPS

Departments of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Political Affairs (DPA) and Field Support (DFS)

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UN Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson visits Brussels and attends the Munich Security Conference

On 2-3 February, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson visited Brussels. He met with HR/VP Federica Mogherini and several EU Commissioners. He also briefed EU member states in the Political and Security Committee (PSC), as well as the foreign affairs and development committees of the European Parliament.

In his meetings, the Deputy Secretary-General noted the strong and healthy relationship between the EU and the UN. He gave an overview of the three seminal UN reviews taking place (on peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture, and UNSCR 1325). The Deputy Secretary-General stressed the need to focus on conflict prevention and early warning in line with Chapter VI of the UN Charter, rather than only focusing on the crisis 'CNN moments.' In terms of the post-conflict stage, he opined that we must 'build back better' by focusing on institution building, rule of law, governance, reconciliation and livelihoods. After his visit to Brussels, the Deputy Secretary-General travelled onwards to Berlin and to the Munich Security Conference (MSC), where he participated in a meeting of the Quartet on the Middle East with Secretary of State Kerry and Foreign Minister Lavrov, hosted by HR/VP Mogherini. At the MSC, German Chancellor Angela Merkel unveiled details about the Minsk II agreement she was working on at the time together with French President Hollande, which was later signed on 12 February in the Normandy Format (Germany, France, Russia, Ukraine).



HR/VP Federica Mogherini with UN DSG Jan Eliasson
Credit: consilium.europa.eu

UN Independent Peace Operations Review Panel holds consultation in Brussels



Top, from left to right: Andrew Hugues, Marie-Louise Baricako, Hilde Johnson, Ian Martin, Panel Chair José Ramos Horta, European Commissioner for Development Neven Mimica, Rima Salah, and Jean Arnault.

Bottom: High-level conference on peace operations with foreign ministry officials from 31 European capitals

Credit: EU - UNLOPS

As part of the series of regional consultations, members of the High-Level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations, led by Nobel laureate José Ramos Horta, visited Brussels on 19-20 February to consult with EU and NATO institutions and European countries. The panel discussed a range of issues with EEAS Executive Secretary General Pierre Vimont and other senior EEAS officials, including how to better respond to conflict in a globalized and fast moving world. The panel held direct consultations with the Political and Security Committee, the influential EU member state decision-making committee on peace and security issues. A meeting with the Development Commissioner Mimica focused on triangular cooperation between the UN, EU and the AU, amongst other issues. The panel also met with the NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow and with other senior NATO officials. They discussed how NATO-UN cooperation could help address some of the challenges faced by peace operations in a manner that respects the

specific mandates of the two organisations. They also exchanged views about NATO's operational experience over the past 20 years and the Alliance's role in defence capacity building. Following the consultations with EU and NATO institutions, in a high-level conference on 20 February, foreign ministry officials from 31 European capitals exchanged views with the panel on three specific themes, including Europe's strategic interests in UN peace operations. Many delegates pointed out that UN peace operations are becoming ever more relevant to European security, given the security threats emanating from Europe's southern and eastern flank. The conference also addressed European perspectives on making and building peace, including the need to invest more in the prevention of conflicts, as well as European perspectives on military and policing aspects of UN peace operations.

Latest round of UN-EU High Level Political Dialogue



*USG for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman at the latest round of the UN-EU High-Level Political Dialogue (HLPD) on 24 March in Brussels.
Credit: UNLOPS*

Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman and EEAS Deputy Secretary General Helga Schmid held the latest round of the UN-EU High-Level Political Dialogue (HLPD) on 24 March in Brussels. The HLPD was established in 2013 as a means of enhancing structured political dialogue between the UN and EU. Recognizing that international attention is often focused on crisis situations, and that special efforts need to be taken to put conflict prevention higher on the political agenda of the EU, the UN, and their member states, this round of talks paid significant attention to practical steps that could be taken to prevent conflict, with a focus on particular geographic settings. The dialogue also focused on a range of 'in crisis' countries and regions and discussed how best UN-EU partnership could be fostered to support sustainable political settlements.

Beyond the HLPD, Mr. Feltman had a range of meetings with senior EEAS officials and also briefed the EU's Political and Security Committee. He thanked the committee for the close collaboration between the EU and the UN and supported the Action List on enhancing EU-UN coordination and collaboration on peace and security policy, which EU Ambassadors endorsed in 2014.

Mr. Feltman participated in the International Donor Conference for Guinea-Bissau on 25 March, together with SRSG Miguel Trovoada, head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). Under-Secretary-General Feltman delivered a statement at the conference on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon emphasizing support for Guinea-Bissau's reform process. The statement emphasized the UN's readiness to use its expertise, good offices and coordination role to support the government in delivering on its vision of a peaceful and prosperous country. Prior to the conference the EU revoked the suspension of article 96 of the Cotonou agreement, thus allowing European Development Funds to be disbursed to support Guinea-Bissau's reform agenda.

The UN-NATO Staff Talks – broad cooperation



UN-NATO Staff Talks took place at NATO Headquarters in Brussels
Credit: NATO

This year's Staff Talks, held in Brussels on 16 and 17 February, demonstrated that the UN-NATO relationship has continued on a positive trajectory. Talks in plenary were complemented by substantive experts' meetings (six expert groups for 2015), looking closer at how to best reinforce respective efforts. Theatres where both the UN and NATO are active on the ground were discussed in the plenary session.

Regarding Afghanistan, where NATO recently transitioned from ISAF to Operation Resolute Support, support for the security forces was discussed. On Kosovo, NATO officials noted the excellent cooperation with UNMIK. NATO also briefed on its cooperation with the African Union, and offered to support the UN through its Centres of Excellence. NATO has launched a Readiness Action Plan, which allows the alliance to react quickly with military force to protect its members. NATO is supporting Ukraine, including through five trust funds for the

Ukrainian defence sector. In parallel to the plenary session, expert meetings were held in which UN-NATO cooperation was explored or deepened on a broad range of issues. These included women, peace and security, children and armed conflict, and training and preparedness.

UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management convenes in New York

The EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management met in New York on 26 January 2015. Co-chaired by Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous and EEAS Deputy Secretary General Maciej Popowski, the meeting was centered on issues where UN-EU collaboration is critical. The co-chairs welcomed the work in delivering the *"EU Action Plan to enhance CSDP support to UN peacekeeping"*, with modalities for coordination on concepts, training and exercises and lessons learned now all having been finalised. The meeting also encouraged progress on a new strategic partnership document (see article on page 5). The discussion on the Central African Republic focused on the strong coordination on the ground. It was agreed to conduct a lessons learned exercise on the transition from EUFOR to MINUSCA in order to further define and refine the 'bridging model' of cooperation between the two organisations. On Mali, both organisations expressed an intention to support the follow-up mechanism on implementation of the Algiers talks, once concluded. On the Sahel, the UN and EU agreed on the importance of supporting the Sahel Ministerial Coordination Platform. The political and security situations in both Libya and South Sudan were discussed, and it was agreed to maintain coordination. The meeting was also briefed on OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) discussions on financing criteria for work on peace and security.



EEAS Deputy Secretary General Maciej Popowski
Credit: EU

UN and EU deepen cooperation on conflict prevention

On 5-6 November 2014, the UN and the EU held their first joint workshop on conflict prevention in Brussels, entitled “Preventing Conflict – From Analysis to Action”, in order to promote and strengthen cooperation in line with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

The full range of tools available were presented, from preventive diplomacy, co-ordinated engagement with the EU and UN member state decision-making bodies, conflict sensitive programming, to longer term missions. The workshop clarified how each actor (EEAS, European Commission, DPA, and UNDP) approaches conflict prevention, and where opportunities for enhanced partnership lie. Participants assessed the comparative advantage of conflict prevention actions, including preventive diplomacy (reducing violence in the short term due to a timely diplomatic intervention based on political analysis) and structural conflict prevention (addressing root causes of violence through longer term programs on the basis of an analysis of the conflict).

With examples from country settings, DPA gave an overview of its tools, including high level preventive diplomacy. UNDP highlighted recent innovations, including building capacities of national and local actors to deal with emerging challenges in the area of conflict prevention. The EU presented developments with regard to the Comprehensive Approach and relevant aspects of the action plan under development (including the Early Warning System and Political Frameworks for Crisis Approach), as well as programming frameworks, including the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the ERMES (European Resources for Mediation Support), and the work of EU Special Representatives. Participants presented “hot topics” in conflict prevention, including electoral violence, countering violent extremism, and drug trafficking and organized crime. Participants also presented action taken in the Central African Republic, DPA preventive diplomacy in South Asia, and EU-UN cooperation in the Horn of Africa and the Western Balkans. Some of the challenges identified in the workshop included proving the value of conflict prevention (measuring the impact of a non-event) in order to mobilize the international community to generate political will and resources, rather than reacting to crises. The EU and the UN committed to working together to place conflict prevention higher on the political agenda of member states.



EU-UN strategic partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management (2015-18)

Meeting in Brussels on 31 March the Political and Security Committee (PSC) representing the 28 EU Member States, held a first round of consultations on a document called “Strengthening the UN-EU strategic partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management: Priorities 2015-2018”. This new document builds on the work achieved under the “2012-2014 EU Action Plan to enhance CSDP support to UN peacekeeping”. The priorities set out were developed based on an in-depth consultation process in 2014, including three high level regional seminars in Rome, Berlin and Brussels. The priorities aim to leverage the added value of both the EU and UN. A key theme of the EU-UN Strategic Partnership is to further improve EU-UN cooperation in response to crises, including through rapid response and support for UN peacekeeping operations. Cooperation on rule of law and security sector reform, enhanced information sharing, logistics, and support for the African Union are all key aspects of the partnership.

European Council on relations with Russia, the Ukraine crisis and Libya

EU Heads of State and Government met on **20 March** in Brussels to discuss a range of issues, including Libya, Ukraine and relations with Russia, and the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in May. The Council agreed that the duration of the restrictive measures against the Russian Federation should be clearly linked to the implementation of the Minsk Agreements. Economic sanctions will remain enforced until the end of 2015 when the last point of the peace plan is to be implemented: Ukraine regaining control over its borders in the east. The European Council also expressed the EU's willingness to support the OSCE's monitoring and verification efforts, as well as Ukraine's reform process. It called for the third macro-financial assistance package of EUR 1.8 billion for Ukraine to be adopted as a matter of urgency. EU leaders discussed energy security and transparency in gas contracts and agreed to establish an Energy Union.

On the Eastern Partnership, EU leaders agreed to prioritize the building of democratic institutions and the strengthening of the rule of law in the countries to the EU's east. This will be done in a differentiated way, specific to the needs of each country. EU leaders will discuss this with the six eastern partners (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) directly at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga on 21 May 2015, focusing on the existing Association Agreements signed with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The last Eastern Partnership Summit, in Vilnius in November 2013, sparked the Maidan protests that toppled the Yanukovich government. On Libya, EU leaders emphasized the need for a political solution to the crisis and supported the efforts of SRSG Bernardino León. They also supported a request for High Representative Mogherini to present proposals on possible CSDP actions in Libya as soon as an agreement to form a government of national unity is found. Mogherini has stressed on a number of occasions that any EU military or civilian action would be well-coordinated with the UN and regional partners. The European Council deplored the continuing loss of migrants' lives at sea and EU member states agreed to strengthen EU operations to better manage migration flows, including through EU border management agency FRONTEX and its Mediterranean operation Triton. Meanwhile, on **23 April**, EU heads of state and government held an extraordinary meeting to discuss a range of measures following a naval disaster in the Mediterranean on the previous weekend when over 700 migrants drowned. Measures include an increase in financial support to fight trafficking at sea, plus plans to put a mission in place to capture and destroy vessels before they are used by traffickers.



Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Donald Tusk, President of the European Council on 20 March 2015
Credit: consilium.europa.eu

High-level visits

SRSG Martin Kobler, Head of the UN Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), visited Brussels on 4-5 November to address the EU's Political and Security Committee. He strongly supported EU CSDP engagement in the DRC and encouraged the EU to support MONUSCO's Security Sector Reform plan. He also met with Koen Vervaeke, EU Special Coordinator for the Great Lakes region, and with EEAS Secretary General Pierre Vimont.

SRSG Bernardino León, the head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), visited Brussels on 2 December to participate in an envoys meeting on Libya. He also briefed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, and held a meeting with HR/VP Mogherini. SRSG León returned to Brussels on 23 March 2015 to co-chair a meeting of representatives from Libyan municipalities in Brussels, together with Ms. Mogherini.

The head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), SRSG Miroslav Jenča, participated in a conference in Brussels on EU and Central Asia cooperation on 30 January, entitled "Reality checks, lessons learned and ways ahead". SRSG Jenča spoke on the topic of regional challenges,

including political developments and the water-energy nexus. He elaborated on the role of the UN and other organisations in mitigating the risk of conflict in the region.

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous (pictured right) attended the informal EU Defence Ministers meeting in Riga on 18-19 February where he met with HR/VP Federica Mogherini and Latvian Defence Minister Raimonds Vējonis.

Following their participation at the UN-NATO staff talks on 16-17 February, the **DPA Director for Europe Division, Elizabeth Spehar** and the **DPKO Director for Europe and Latin America Division, Peter Due**, held a series of meetings with NATO and EU officials, including with EEAS Executive Secretary General, Pierre Vimont and CMDP Director Gabor Iklody.



USG Hervé Ladsous with Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Latvian Defence Minister Raimonds Vējonis
Credit: UN

UN Police Adviser Stefan Feller headed a delegation from UN headquarters to Brussels on 20-21 February for meetings with senior EEAS officials with a focus on how to build closer UN-EU cooperation on police, justice and corrections. As a result of those meetings, the UN and EU intend to collaborate further on police doctrine development, training and planning. Lessons and good practices from UN-EU police cooperation on the ground in theatres such as Mali and the CAR were also discussed.

SRSG Mohamed Ibn Chambas from the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) visited Brussels on 4-5 March. He discussed developments in Nigeria with Santiago Fisas Ayxela, a Member of the European Parliament and the chief EU observer for the March 2015 Nigerian elections. SRSG Chambas also met with EEAS Managing Director for Africa Nicholas Westcott and Patrick Gomes, the Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states. Mr. Chambas participated as a keynote speaker in an event on Ebola in West Africa, hosted by the chair of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee, Louis Michel (pictured right).



At the invitation of Louis Michel (MEP), the Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and SRSG Mohamed Chambas of UNOWA participated in a European Parliament meeting on 5 March focused on West Africa issues. Credit: UNLOPS

Jennifer Welsh, UN Special Advisor on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), visited Brussels on 10 March to address ambassadors in the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC). She also spoke to the EU member states working group on relations with the United Nations (CONUN). While in Brussels, she held meetings with EU officials, including EEAS Deputy Secretary General Maciej Popowski. She discussed issues related to the responsibility to protect with a range of civil society organisations at an event organised by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO).

On 25 March **SRSG Miguel Trovada, the head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)** participated in the international conference "Terra Ranka – A fresh start for Guinea-Bissau" which was jointly organised by the European Union and UNDP. The conference brought together the international community to endorse Guinea-Bissau's development strategy and pledge financial support for achieving its goals.

From 29 March to 1 April, the **Advisory Group of Experts on the review of the peacebuilding architecture** visited Brussels to undertake a consultation with the EU. The group met with a range of EU officials and civil society groups.

David Haeri, the Director of the DPKO/DFS Division for Evaluation and Training is due to visit Brussels on 27/28 April. He will meet with EU and NATO officials on a range of issues, including cooperation on capabilities, the results set out in the UN report by an expert panel on technology and innovation in peacekeeping, the second UN peacekeeping Summit (Sept 2015) and institutional cooperation more broadly.

Conclusion of the High-Level Seminar series on EU-UN Partnerships in Crisis Management and Peace Operations

The High-Level Seminar series on EU-UN Partnerships in Crisis Management and Peace Operations formally concluded in Brussels on 3 December 2014, in an event that brought together EU member states, the EEAS and DPKO. The series, organized by the Italian Presidency of the EU and the German foreign ministry, together with the EUISS and ZIF, put forward a number of key priorities for an enhanced UN-EU partnership. Addressing the seminar on 3 December, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous and EEAS Deputy Secretary General Maciej Popowski welcomed the proposals developed in earlier seminars held in Rome (22/23 October) and Berlin (13 November) and recommended that many of the key proposals be captured in the new strategic partnership document under development. In this regard, Mr. Ladsous highlighted proposals related to the need to mobilise additional EU member state contributions for UN peacekeeping operations. He noted the recent positive trend in Mali with the establishment of the "All Sources Information Fusion Unit", with support from the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Estonia (Norway is also participating). He also highlighted that the EU can play a vital rapid response bridging role, as recently demonstrated in the CAR. Building on the findings from the Berlin seminar, Mr. Ladsous called for further EU-UN cooperation on rule of law and in the security and defence sectors, citing the follow-on EU defence sector advisory mission in the CAR as a very useful complement to the work undertaken by EUFOR and MINUSCA.



Credit: euun2014.eu

UN—EU Desk to Desk Dialogues on Iraq and the Middle East Peace Process

Launched in 2003, the UN-EU Desk to Desk dialogue on conflict prevention brings together staff to strengthen cooperation in the areas of conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding.



On 20-21 November 2014, DPA's Iraq team leader, together with a team member and a senior political affairs officer of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), visited Brussels as part of the desk-to-desk dialogue programme to exchange views and share analyses with EU counterparts in relation to Iraq and ISIL. The UN Iraq Team also held an informal roundtable discussion with European Parliament policy staff and assistants to Members of the European Parliament working on Iraq. Counterparts in the EU institutions all expressed appreciation for the good UN-EU cooperation on the ground in Iraq. The EEAS informed that the EU's counter-terrorism strategy on Syria/Iraq would be part of the EU comprehensive regional strategy for Syria, Iraq and ISIL, which was endorsed by the Foreign Affairs Council on 16 March. As an outcome of the desk to desk visit, EU and UN colleagues agreed to continue their exchange.

On 12-14 November, DPA's Middle East Team Leader had two days of meetings with officials of the EEAS, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. The visit was particularly timely as High Representative Mogherini had just returned from the region and the Council had issued conclusions. All interlocutors stressed the willingness and the interest of the new High Representative to play a role in the MEPP, addressing also regional issues, and to garner support for the reactivation and possible extension of the two EU missions (EUBAM Rafah and EUPOL COPPS).

In pictures: sample of UNLOPS representational activities

UNLOPS staff member Annick Hiensch (pictured right) represented DPA at the 58th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna on 9 March.



Meeting of the EU Committee on Civilian Crisis Management (CivCom) with UNLOPS on 15 April to discuss EU -UN Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management.



On 23 April 2015, Rory Keane (UNLOPS) met with Swedish Crown Princess Victoria to discuss UN-EU partnership on peace and security.

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