



UN and EU Leaders confirm the vital partnership



Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the European Parliament in Strasbourg, on 17 May 2017. Credit: European Parliament.

With a view to strengthen the UN-EU partnership, the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, touched down in Strasbourg on 17 May to address the Plenary of the European Parliament for the first time since taking office. He expressed his strong support for the European Union, calling it the “most successful project of peace sustainability” and underlining that a “strong and united Europe is an absolutely fundamental pillar of a strong and effective United Nations”. He thanked the EU for its commitment to multilateralism and its generous contribution to development, humanitarian efforts and to the core of UN action, namely peace and security. He mentioned the EU’s work in Libya, the

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High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) Federica Mogherini and UN Secretary-General António Guterres in the UN Headquarters, New York, on 9 May 2017. Credit: UN

EU funding for AMISOM in Somalia, and the EU's financial support and training & capacity building in the Central African Republic and Mali (adding that he was looking forward to the contribution for the G5 Sahel Joint Task Force). He stressed the importance of UN-EU cooperation in working together to meet the unprecedented challenges facing the international community, primarily the multiplication of conflicts that are more protracted and increasingly linked to regional and global issues, including terrorism. The Secretary-General received a standing ovation from the Members of the European Parliament and European Parliament President Tajani assured the EU's continued commitment to the partnership.

During her annual briefing to the Security Council on 9 May, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), Federica Mogherini, said that, despite challenges, the EU has recently made important steps in becoming a stronger partner for the UN in the realm of peace and security. Within the framework of the EU Global Strategy on Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (adopted in June 2016 to replace the 2003 European Security Strategy), the EU adopted in November 2016 the Implementation Plan on Security and Defence. On 6 March, the Military Planning and Conduct Capability was agreed for non-executive military missions (for example the EU Training Missions in Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia). The EU also launched the European Defence Fund that will support both research and capabilities and help incentivize Permanent Structured Cooperation. Further priorities include a Coordinated Annual Review on Defence and civilian capability development, including a standing capacity.

New Head of UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations engages European partners

The newly appointed Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, briefed EU Defence Ministers at their informal summit on 28 March in Malta, addressing the Secretary-General's current priorities and existing capability gaps in UN peacekeeping operations. He also held a range of bilateral meetings with EU Defence Ministers.

A month later, he paid his first visit to Brussels in his new role on 4-5 May. While in Brussels, USG Lacroix met with high-level EU officials as well as with the Defence Minister of Belgium, Steven Vandeput, to explore areas of cooperation.

USG Lacroix, alongside DPA Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Miroslav Jenča, also co-chaired the annual UN-NATO staff talks that centred around technical cooperation, including counter-IED, training and exercises, and women, peace and security.

Speaking to Radio France Internationale on 5 May, USG Lacroix said that “we are in contact with partners of the European Union who can do a lot to fill our gaps in critical enablers, notably helicopters, but also in other areas: intelligence, surveillance, counter-IED and much more”. He confirmed that the Defence Ministers were “very positive and encouraging” regarding these issues.

It is expected that European Defence Ministers, alongside senior EU and NATO officials, will participate in the 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial which take place in Vancouver, Canada on 14-15 November. The Ministerial builds on the 2015 Leaders' Summit on peacekeeping and the 2016 London Ministerial on peacekeeping where European countries, the EU and NATO actively participated and put forward pledges. Both the EU and NATO will also participate in the upcoming UN Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) Conference on 6 and 7 July at UN Headquarters in New York, which builds on the first such UN CHODs conference held in 2015.



From left to right: Former Maltese Home Affairs and National Security Minister Carmelo Abela, USG for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix and HR/VP Federica Mogherini at the Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers in Valletta, Malta, on 26 April 2017. Credit: Maltese Presidency



USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Belgian Defence Minister Steven Vandeput in Brussels on 5 May 2017. Credit: Belgian Defence Ministry

UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management



USG for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman (left) and the then USG for peacekeeping operations Hervé Ladsous (right) at the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management in New York, March 2017. Credit : @ValeDeAlmeidaEU

The UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management took place on 16 March 2017 at UN Headquarters, in New York.

Co-chaired by (now former) USG for peacekeeping operations Hervé Ladsous and European External Action Service (EEAS) Deputy Secretary General Pedro Serrano, the 21st edition of this bi-annual meeting yielded important results for UN-EU cooperation.

The UN and EU endorsed the UN-EU joint framework agreement on mutual support and agreed to take forward joint UN-EU planning modalities for rapid response, underlining the importance of the

UN-EU partnership in peacekeeping and crisis management. The EU highlighted its support for a strong UN and for the new UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

On Mali, the UN and EU agreed to enhance practical cooperation on the ground and to jointly support regional efforts of the G5 Sahel group. Furthermore, the UN and EU agreed to collaborate closely on security sector reform issues in the Central African Republic under the leadership of the national authorities. Additionally, they exchanged views and analysis on Libya and Somalia. Trilateral UN-EU-African Union (AU) cooperation and the AU-UN Joint Review on AMISOM also featured in the discussions.

UN-EU Conflict Prevention Dialogue



The Non-Violence sculpture at the UN Visitors Entrance in New York. Credit: UN

The UN and the EU examined fundamental elements of sustaining peace and assessed conflict prevention tools during the third annual UN-EU Conflict Prevention Dialogue on 23 March in Brussels. Discussions focused on enabling environments for conflict prevention, resilience and working in an integrated manner in view of the EU integrated approach and the Joint UNDP-DPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention.

Ahead of the dialogue, Stephen Jackson of DPA's Policy and Mediation Division briefed the EU Council Working Group on the UN (CONUN) on conflict prevention, mediation and areas of UN cooperation with the EU.

Brussels political update

The **United Kingdom** triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty on 29 March and, one month later, the remaining 27 EU member states formally approved the Brexit negotiating guidelines put forward by Council President Tusk. Echoing the resolution adopted by the European Parliament - which will have to approve the deal two years from now - the EU member states have called for a phased approach, reaching agreement on the rights of citizens and financial obligations, as well as safeguarding the Good Friday Agreement, before trade negotiations can start. The UK prefers simultaneous negotiations. After the snap elections on 8 June, the talks will start in earnest.

Brexit also provided additional context for the **Rome Summit** on 25 March, held to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome that created the European Commission. In advance of the Summit, President Juncker issued a White Paper on the Future of Europe, introducing the idea of a multi-speed Europe, namely the further integration of those member states that are willing and able to do so.

Critical European national elections in recent months have been closely observed in Brussels. The parliamentary elections in the **Netherlands** saw sitting Prime Minister Mark Rutte's VVD score a convincing win over the far-right while, in **France**, Emmanuel Macron – running on a pro-EU platform - won the second round of the French Presidential elections with a large margin. Both victories were warmly welcomed in Brussels. Meanwhile, in mid-January, Martin Schulz, the centre-left President of the European Parliament stepped down in order to run against Chancellor Merkel in the **German elections** later this year, being replaced at the helm of the European Parliament by centre-right MEP, Antonio Tajani.

The **Eastern Partnership** remained high on the agenda in Brussels, with both Ukraine and Georgia securing visa liberalisation agreements. In December, EU leaders agreed to Dutch Prime Minister Rutte's proposal for a legally binding declaration to reflect the result of the April 2016 Dutch referendum on the **EU-**

Ukraine Association Agreement to clarify that the Association Agreement does not necessarily lead to accession. On the **Western Balkans**, visits by Presidents Juncker and Tusk and HR/VP Mogherini to capitals over the past few months are indicative of a wider policy of the EU to engage more in the region.

In a first, **Malta** took up the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January. On 3 February, EU leaders adopted the Malta Declaration and announced 200 million euros of programming through the **Africa Trust Fund for North Africa** to address the Central Mediterranean Route, including those traveling through Libya. The EU has been a consistent supporter to the UN mediation efforts and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and has also heavily engaged itself, through Operation Sophia, and becoming part of the "Quartet" on Libya together with the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the African Union.

The EU held a donor conference on **Syria** on 5 April, attended by the UN Secretary-General, mobilizing over six billion euros in pledges for the country in 2017. Previously, a donor conference on the **Central African Republic** on 17 November saw pledges of more than two billion euros. The new 95 million euros EU Trust Fund for **Colombia** was launched in December.



French President Emmanuel Macron and European Council President Donald Tusk in Paris, on 17 May.
Credit: EU.

UN-EU Political Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism

On 3 March, the annual UN-EU Political Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism gathered UN and EU representatives in Brussels to exchange updates on their ongoing work on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism. Experts shared threat assessments and policy priorities and identified areas for further cooperation. Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Centre, Jehangir Khan, headed the UN delegation and also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts.

Prevention of violent extremism has significantly risen on the agendas of both organizations and counter-terrorism has gained a more prominent place in the institutional setup, with the recent establishment of an EU Commissioner for Security Union and a proposal before the General Assembly to create a new office for counter-terrorism in the UN.



Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Centre, Jehangir Khan, interviewed on the margins of the UN-EU Political Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism. Credit: UNRIC

NATO update

The fight against terrorism and transatlantic burden-sharing were prioritised at the meeting of NATO heads of state and government which took place on 25 May in Brussels, attended by the new Presidents of the United States and France, Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron.

Montenegro, which has since then become the 29th member of the Alliance, also sat at the table. Romania declared that it will reach the NATO two percent of GDP defence spending target this year and would become one of the six allies meeting this target.

The EU and NATO are cooperating on a range of areas from cyber security to cooperation in the Mediterranean. NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, said in his speech to the European Parliament on 3 May that NATO's cooperation with the EU "has become the norm rather than the exception".

On 15 and 16 February, NATO Defence Ministers decided to strengthen NATO's presence in the Black Sea region, approved a Cyber Defence plan and decided to create a military hub at NATO's Joint Force Command in Naples to gather intelligence and situational awareness in the Mediterranean region. NATO also received a request from Libya's Government of National Accord for NATO advice and expertise in defence and security institution building.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg briefing the European Parliament on NATO-EU cooperation on 3 May in Brussels, next to European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee Chair David McAllister. Credit: NATO

High-level visits

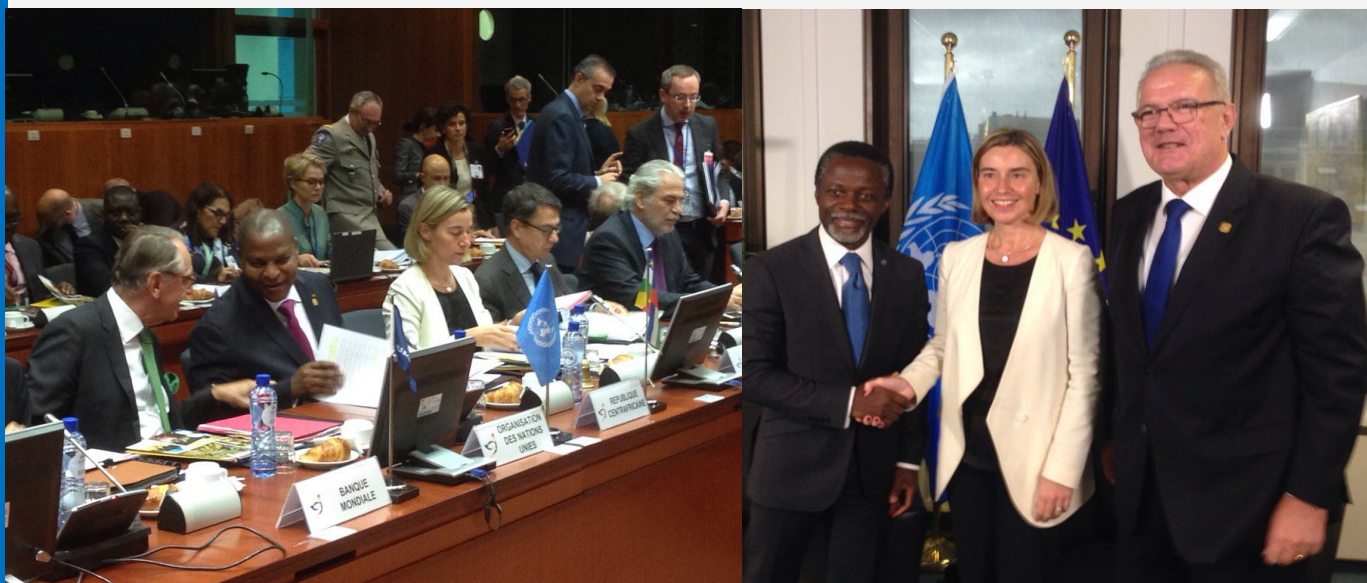
Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs (USG) Jeffrey Feltman held a series of meetings in Brussels in early October 2016, including with then-NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow, EEAS Secretary General Helga Schmid and EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) Ambassadors. Discussions focused on conflict prevention, horizon scanning and practical issues related to UN-EU cooperation on the ground. Interlocutors were also interested in receiving an update on UN reforms in the area of peace and security. While in Brussels, USG Feltman met with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs, Didier Reynders.

Central African Republic (CAR) donor conference and visit of Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of MINUSCA, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga

The EU, in partnership with the UN, the World Bank and the CAR government, organized the CAR Donor Conference on 17 November. In the presence of the President of the Central African Republic, Faustin-Archange Touadéra, HR/VP Federica Mogherini, and the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, more than USD 2.2 billion was pledged to finance the CAR's National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding.

On the margins of the conference, SRSG Parfait Onanga-Anyanga met with HR/VP Federica Mogherini, Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, and with Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

SRSG Onanga-Anyanga also discussed the situation in the CAR with Lt. General Esa Pulkkinen, Director General of the EU Military Staff and with Pedro Serrano, EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Crisis Response and CSDP. He also briefed the EU Council's Africa Working Party. The SRSG welcomed the excellent cooperation between the UN and the EU on the ground, noting that the CAR donor conference had sent a clear message that President Touadéra has the support of the international community.



Pictured left at the CAR Donor Conference: UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, President of the Central African Republic Faustin-Archange Touadéra, HR/VP Federica Mogherini, EEAS Managing Director for Africa Koen Vervaeke, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Christos Stylianides. Pictured right: SRSG and Head of MINUSCA, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, HR/VP Federica Mogherini, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica. Credit: UNLOPS.

Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, visited Brussels on 22–24 March and held meetings with high-level officials at the European Commission and the EEAS.

Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, met with high-level officials in the EEAS and the European Commission and EU Member States representatives in the PSC on 30-31 May. Discussions focused on developments in the Horn of Africa, as well as the new EU Africa Peace Facility allocation to the G5 Sahel Joint Task Force, and preparations for the EU-Africa Summit taking place in November in Abidjan.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mohamed Ibn Chambas, visited Brussels on 17-18 October to request continued EU support for the work of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, particularly on border demarcation. The SRSG met with high-level counterparts in the EEAS and the Commission (DG DEVCO) and briefed the PSC.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Martin Kobler, briefed the PSC on 24 January. The EU started a strategic review of the EUBAM operation, Operation Sophia and the EU Liaison and Planning Cell in Tunis in February. In November 2016, SRSG Kobler visited Brussels and met with HR/VP Mogherini, EEAS DSG for CSDP and Crisis Response, Pedro Serrano, as well as the EEAS Libya Planning Team. The challenging situation facing Libya, including scenarios for EU engagement in Libya, and the need to ensure the protection and assistance of vulnerable migrants were among the discussed topics. SRSG Kobler returned to Brussels on 23 May to represent the UN at the Libya quartet meeting hosted by the EU.

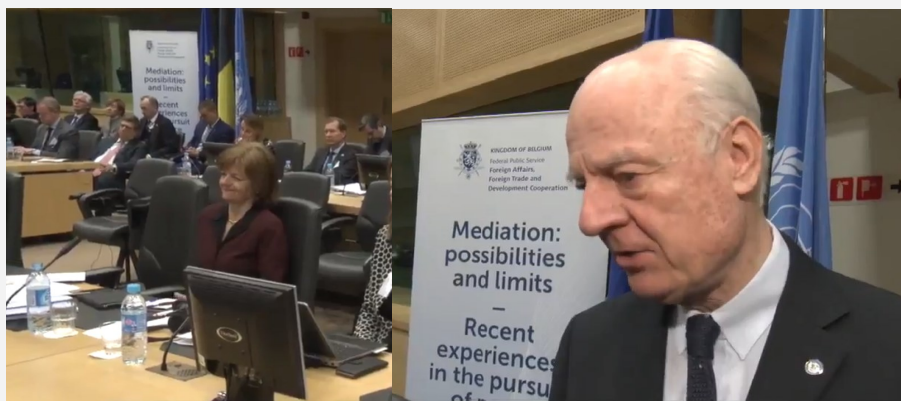


From left to right: Secretary General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Abo El-Gheit, HR/VP Federica Mogherini, High Level Representative of the African Union to Libya Jakaya Kikwete, and SRSG and Head of UNSMIL Martin Kobler, at the Libya Quartet meeting in Brussels on 23 May 2017. Credit: UNLOPS.

On 15-16 February, the **UN Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, Ivan Šimonović**, met with Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, EEAS Deputy Secretary General and EU Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) focal point, Christian Leffler, and other high-level EU officials to discuss mass atrocity prevention and matters related to the 2017 Secretary-General report on RtoP. Special Adviser Šimonović also briefed the EU-United Nations Working Party (CONUN) and met with civil society organizations in a roundtable discussion entitled "Implementing the RtoP principle: UN, EU and civil society perspectives."

Department for Political Affairs Europe Division Director, Levent Bilman, visited Brussels on 20-21 March to co-chair the EEAS-DPA Europe Dialogue together with EEAS Managing Director for Europe, Thomas Mayr-Harting. Mr. Bilman also briefed a gathering of PSC Ambassadors at a breakfast hosted by the Irish PSC Ambassador and held bilateral meetings with EU and NATO officials.

On 14 February, **DPA Policy and Mediation Division Director Teresa Whitfield** took part in the high-level International Conference on Mediation organised by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference was also attended by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura. Ms. Whitfield met with PSC Ambassadors at a meeting hosted by Finland. The visit also provided an opportunity to meet with EEAS officials, including Stefano Tomat, Head of the new EEAS division for Prevention of conflicts, Rule of law, SSR, Integrated approach, Stabilisation and Mediation (PRISM) and the EEAS Managing Director for Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues, Lotte Knudsen.



DPA Policy and Mediation Division Director Teresa Whitfield (left) and Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura (right) at the high-level International Conference on Mediation organized by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 February 2017. Credit: #MediationConf17

The **Director of the Asia, Middle East, Europe and Latin America Division in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Peter Due**, had meetings with EEAS officials on Haiti and Kosovo in May. Discussions included the EU cooperation with respectively the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and its follow-up mission MINUJUSTH, and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Sample of UNLOPS representational activities

During a meeting of the **European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence** on 9 March, Annick Hiensch briefed the MEPs on the UN-EU partnership in the area of peace and security.



Kamiel Mesie represented DPKO and DFS at a NATO conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, and presented the **DPKO/DFS policy on the protection of civilians (POC)**. The development of NATO's POC concept was continued at a workshop on 7-8 February at the UK Defence Academy in Shrivenham, where UNLOPS presented the UN's experience in civilian harm mitigation and proactive protection of civilian populations.

Rory Keane presented the UN work on **women, peace and security** at a high-level seminar organized by the EU Military Staff (EUMS) at the occasion of International Women's Day.

On the occasion of **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** on 25 January, Rory Keane participated to a panel discussion following the screening of the movie documentary "Bogdan's journey" in the framework of the Ciné-ONU screenings in Brussels.



In May, Rory Keane met with the Estonian PSC Ambassador, Lembit Uibo. **Estonia** will take over the Presidency of the Council of the EU on the 1st of July 2017.

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