



Secretary-General Engages EU Leadership on Inaugural Visit to Brussels



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres traveled to Brussels on 15-16 May 2018 to meet with Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission (with the College of Commissioners) and Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission (HR/VP). The Secretary-General also met with the Prime Minister of Belgium, Charles Michel, on 16 May.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres is welcomed in Brussels by EU Council President Donald Tusk. Credits: REUTERS

The Secretary-General had previously addressed the plenary of the European Parliament in Strasbourg in May 2017 and had also co-chaired the Brussels conference “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region” in April 2017. This visit represented the first formal encounter with the EU institutions in Brussels. It reflected the increasing emphasis the United Nations is putting on partnerships with global actors such as the European Union, given the challenges posed by the increasing number and interlinkages of violent conflicts.

The Secretary-General underlined the exemplary UN-EU cooperation, including with regards to peace operations, and appealed to the EU to be more united, more effective and more present in international relations as a central pillar of multilateralism, particularly given the dangers posed by the proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons and the lack of dialogue mechanisms to contain them.

Meeting at the 2018 General Assembly opening week, the UN and EU leadership expressed, in a joint statement, their further determination to strengthen cooperation and to seek innovative and forward-looking solutions to global challenges.

Secretary-General engages EU	1	Austrian EU Presidency	4
USG DiCarlo Speaks on Afghanistan at NATO Summit	2	Somalia Partnership Forum	5
EU Ministers Welcome Updated UN-EU Priorities	2	Institutional Dialogue Mechanisms	6
EU Missions and Operations Update	3	UN Visitors to Brussels	6
European Council Drives Progress on Security and Defence	4	Sample of Representational Activities	9



USG Rosemary DiCarlo meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on margins of the Resolute Support Mission session at the 2018 NATO Summit. Credits: UNLOPS.

USG DiCarlo Speaks on Afghanistan at NATO Summit

The Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Political Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, represented the Secretary-General at a session on NATO's engagement in Afghanistan during the Alliance's summit on 11 and 12 July. USG DiCarlo emphasized that an opportunity had opened with President Ashraf Ghani's peace offer to the Taliban and that further improvements in the country hinged on inclusive and credible elections in October, noting the importance of the participation of women. NATO leaders at the summit agreed to sustain the Resolute Support Mission presence in Afghanistan until conditions indicate a change is appropriate and to

extend financing for Afghan security forces through 2024. Agreement was furthermore reached to increase NATO's deployment of staff and enablers providing military support and training in Iraq. NATO also extended a conditional invitation to the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (fYROM) to join the alliance. This step had largely been enabled by the progress in resolving the "name issue" between Greece and the fYROM, a process facilitated by UN Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Matthew Nimetz.

In the NATO communiqué, Alliance governments also expressed their determination to deepen institutional partnerships, notably with the UN. Meeting on 25 September in the margins of the UN General Assembly opening debate, the Secretary-General and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg committed to continued close cooperation, in particular on Women, Peace and Security and countering Improvised Explosive Devices.

EU Ministers Welcome Updated UN-EU Priorities on Peace Operations and Crisis Management



Speaking at the Consultation workshop on the 2019-2021 UN-EU Strategic Priorities in Brussels, 15 March: Gábor Iklódy, Director of the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate at the EEAS (second from right). Credits: EEAS.

Demonstrating the pivotal importance of UN-EU Partnership to foster global peace and security, EU foreign ministers issued Council Conclusions on 18 September, welcoming the updated UN-EU Priorities on Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management. In the margins of the UN General Assembly opening week, the two organizations also issued a press communiqué on 25 September, reaffirming support for the agreed UN-EU Priorities for the period 2019-2021.

The eight Priorities put the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as a top workstream.

Furthermore, the priorities call for:

- strengthening cooperation between missions and operations in the field,
- cooperation on the transitions of missions,
- facilitation of EU Member States' contributions and support to UN peace operations,
- conflict prevention in peace operations,
- cooperation on policing, the rule of law and Security Sector Reform (SSR),
- cooperation with and support to African peace operations, and
- cooperation on training and capacity building.

Update on EU CSDP Missions and Operations

During the reporting period, multiple EU missions and operations have seen their mandates extended and adapted. There are 16 CSDP missions worldwide (10 political, 6 military) with a total of approximately 5,500 staff deployed. Noteworthy are ongoing efforts by the EU to regionalize its engagement in the Sahel and bolster support for the G5 countries, taking on responsibility for the provision of security in the region. This is evidenced not only in the EU's pledge to rebuild the G5 headquarters destroyed during an attack in Sévaré on 29 June, but also in the European Council's mandating of the **EUCAP Sahel Mali** mission, deployed to assist in the maintenance of the constitutional order of the country, to strengthen its "support for cross-border cooperation" in the region. **EUTM Mali**'s mandate was also adapted to cover advice and training to G5 forces, while its budget was almost doubled, to EUR 57.9m.

EULEX Kosovo, the EU's biggest civilian CSDP mission aiming at the establishment of resilient rule of law institutions in Kosovo, has been extended for two years last June. While it will remain a secondary security provider, the new mandate strengthens the mission's monitoring pillar. EULEX officials will assess selected trials and cases in Kosovo's criminal and civil justice system and, to this end, cooperate with UNMIK experts.

Following the first Strategic Review completed on 23 January 2018, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), General Sir James Everard, in his role as the Operational Commander of **European Union Force (EUFOR) Operation ALTHEA**, welcomed the EU Member States' resolve to re-focus Operation ALTHEA on supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment (above all other tasks), while praising the commitment to strengthen NATO-EU coordination.

EUAM Iraq was recognized by the EU Foreign Ministers for providing support to the Iraqi authorities' reform efforts in the civilian security sector in the context of the new strategy for Iraq that was adopted by the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 22 January 2018. **EUBAM Rafah** and **EUPOL COPPS**, respectively the EU's Assistance Mission to the Rafah Crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza strip and its police support mission to the Palestinian territories, have had their mandates renewed.

The cooperation between the UN and EU in Libya has been highlighted by a visit in July of HR/VP Mogherini to the country, to open the new offices of **EUBAM Libya**. Upon her visit, she highlighted the EU's continued willingness to support the UN-run programmes in the country, not only in the field of migration.

EUTM RCA, the EU's Training Mission in the Central African Republic, saw its mandate extended until June 2020 and expanded to cover advice to the cabinet of the country's President, as well as the ministry of interior and the gendarmerie. Previously, the mission's mandate focused exclusively on advice to the defence ministry and the CAR armed forces. As a result of Brexit, the operational headquarter of **EUNAVFOR Somalia Atalanta**, the EU's anti-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia, will be relocated to Rota (Spain) from Northwood in the UK, effective March 2019.

European Council Pushes for Progress on Security and Defence

In the continuation of a trend seen since 2017, further steps were taken to increase European cooperation in the realm of defence and security at the European Council of 28 June. In its Conclusions, the European Council emphasized its determination to achieve “strategic autonomy” for the EU. European heads of states and governments furthermore pledged to bolster their cooperation on military investment, capability development and operational readiness.

A second round of projects under Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), a framework for the cooperation of EU member states in defence and military projects activated at the end of last year, is expected to be finalized in November. These will add to the already existing 17 projects underway. June's European Council Conclusions additionally called upon the Council to develop rules under which states outside the EU could participate in PESCO projects. The European Council called for “further development” of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), a mechanism to assess defence capability shortfalls from a European perspective. Leaders in their Conclusions also called for further progress on the European Defence Fund, established in 2017 to increase the competitiveness of the EU's defence sector.

A Civilian CSDP Framework (or “Compact”) is expected to be finalized by the end of the year and provide ongoing EU missions with guidance and tangible support for civilian crisis management. Furthermore, in response to multiple alleged cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, both in the EU and elsewhere, the European Council called on HR/VP Mogherini to develop a plan of action by December 2018.

The Austrian EU Presidency Priorities



British Prime Minister Theresa May is greeted at Salzburg by the informal EU summit's host, Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz on 19 September.
Credits: Sean Gallup

Austria has taken over the rotating presidency of the European Council on 1 July, labelling its three main priorities as the fight against illegal immigration, Europe's competitiveness in the digital economy, and stability in the Western Balkans with a view to those countries' joining the EU over time.

Austria's ambition to focus its presidency on illegal migration was highlighted through an informal EU summit from 19-20 September in Salzburg, hosted by Austrian

Chancellor Sebastian Kurz. EU heads of state and government agreed to deepen their cooperation on migration with Northern African countries, including through organizing a summit between the EU and the League of Arab States to be held in Cairo in February 2019. The informal Salzburg summit also revived the idea of “flexible solidarity”, in which countries unwilling to take in migrants contribute more to border protection projects. EU Commission President Juncker's proposal to strengthen the European Border and

Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) was welcomed by most leaders, although details such as the exact size of the force and the modalities of its proposed executive powers will have to be further worked out at the European Council meeting on 18–19 October.

June's EU summit already saw a decision by EU leaders to establish, on a voluntary basis, "controlled centres" within EU member states that aim to distinguish legal asylum seekers from economic migrants. However, so far, no EU member state has offered to host such a centre.

The issue of Western Balkans stability, another priority of the Austrian presidency, was addressed by USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix during his participation in the EU's Defence Ministers informal meeting in Vienna on 29-30 August, where he provided ministers with an update on the implementation of the UNMIK mandate. USG Lacroix also noted the good cooperation between UNMIK and the EU's EULEX mission in Kosovo and discussed the possibility for Balkan countries to become security providers through their engagement with UN peace operations. While in Vienna, the USG also held bilateral meetings with European defence ministers, among them Italian Defence Minister, Elisabetta Trenta, Dutch Defence Minister, Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, and Irish Minister of Defence, Paul Kehoe.

Somalia Partnership Forum

The Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF), building on an inaugural meeting in 2017 in London, came together for a second gathering in Brussels from 16 to 17 July. Bringing together Somali officials, led by President Mohammad Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmajo" with donors and representatives from the EU, the AU and the UN, all of which maintain missions in the country, the SPF aimed to raise awareness for the plight of the Somali people, of whom 5.4 million are still in need of humanitarian assistance. The Forum furthermore supported the political process of stabilization and reconciliation in Somalia, which has made progress in the past months with the approval of a security transition plan by the Somali Council of Ministers.



Family photo at the Somalia Partnership Forum, 16 July 2018,
Credits: Mohamud Ulusu

With a view to supporting both the transition plan and the preparation of national elections in 2020, HR/VP Mogherini pledged an additional EUR 200m in support for Somalia and EUR 114m in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). USG Rosemary DiCarlo expressed the UN's determination to support the Transition Plan. She urged the EU to maintain its vital financial support for the AMISOM mission. She was accompanied by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia and Head of UNSOM, Michael Keating.

Institutional Dialogue Mechanisms

During the reporting period, the UN and the EU continued to cooperate through established dialogue mechanisms:

On 20-21 March, the 4th UN-EU Annual Partnership Meeting on Conflict Prevention took place in Brussels, opened by the Deputy Secretary General (DSG) of the EU's External Action Service (EEAS), Pedro Serrano. The meeting was co-chaired by Roselyn Akombe of the Policy and Mediation Division in DPA and Stefano Tomat, Head of the Division for Prevention of conflicts, Rule of law/SSR, Integrated approach, Stabilisation and Mediation (PRISM) at the EEAS. The UN and the EU discussed the ongoing UN reform and its focus on conflict prevention, a priority of the Secretary-General. Both sides agreed to enhance their cooperation on mediation, joint analysis and early warning mechanisms. The Meeting also covered key geographic files.

USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix and the EEAS DSG Pedro Serrano, co-chaired the 23rd UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management on 26 April and took forward practical cooperation in a range of mission settings. These included Mali and support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, the Central African Republic and Somalia. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is expected to be held in December.



USG Voronkov (left) with EEAS DSG Serrano. Credits: UNLOPS.

On 25 May, the head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, USG Vladimir Voronkov, co-chaired the EU-UN Leadership Dialogue on Counterterrorism together with EEAS DSG Pedro Serrano. USG Voronkov also had an exchange with HR/VP Mogherini. The dialogue centered on areas of common concern, such as retuning foreign terrorist fighters, counter-terrorism capacity building efforts in Central Asia, South and South-East Asia, the Sahel region and Lake Chad Basin as well as promoting a whole-of-UN approach in preventing and countering terrorism.

UN Visitors to Brussels

The **MINUSMA Force Commander (former), Major General Jean-Paul Deconinck**, visited Brussels on **24 January** and held bilateral meetings with EEAS DSG Pedro Serrano, the Director General of the EU Military Staff, Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, as well as with the permanent Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos. He briefed the EU Military Committee, being the first serving UN Force Commander to do so.

On **9 February**, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) Executive Director, **Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) Michèle Coninx**, visited Brussels for meeting with senior EU officials and briefed the EU's Political and Security Committee.

On **19 February**, **USG for Political Affairs (former) Jeffrey Feltman** visited Brussels and met with HR/VP Mogherini, EEAS Executive Secretary General, Helga Schmid, and NATO Deputy Secretary General, Rose Gottemoeller.

On **20-21 February**, (former) Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) **Ivan Šimonović** visited Brussels to brief the United Nations Working Party of the Council of the EU (CONUN) and to participate in the EU Expert Meeting on RtoP.



Family Photo at the International High-Level Conference on the Sahel, 23 February 2018. Credits: European Commission

On **23 February**, the **International High-Level Conference on the Sahel** took place in Brussels. It was co-chaired by the EU, the UN, the AU and Niger as the then president of the G5 Sahel. The event saw the participation of over 60 delegations, including 32 heads of state and government (including the G5 Presidents and 24 EU Heads of State and Government), the President of the European Commission

Jean-Claude Juncker and the Chairman of the AU Commission Moussa Faki. The UN Delegation was led by **USG for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix**, representing the Secretary-General and included **the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Mali and Head of MINUSMA, Mahamat Saleh Annadif** and the **SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel and head of UNOWAS, Mohammed Ibn Chambas**. Leaders expressed their support to the G5 Sahel countries and pledged EUR 414 million in support of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. On the margins of the conference, the UN and the European Commission signed a technical arrangement for the provision of operational and logistical support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force in line with UNSC Resolution 2391 (2017). In parallel, a financial agreement was endorsed by the EU and the UN providing a contribution of EUR 10 million for the support that MINUSMA will extend to the G5 joint force. At the conference, multiple countries highlighted the necessity for the G5 countries to develop a holistic approach encompassing the three pillars on the UN Integrated Sahel Strategy, namely governance, security and development.



AMISOM Financing Special Envoys Guéhenno (right) and Lamamra (left) in Brussels with Commissioner Neven Mimica (centre). Credits: UNLOPS.

The UN and AU **Special Envoys on the AMISOM funding consultations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno** and **Ramtane Lamamra**, visited Brussels on **20-21 March** and met with the EU's Political and Security Committee as well as with European Commissioner for Development Cooperation, Neven Mimica, and other high-level EU officials to discuss future parameters and funding of AMISOM.

On **24 April**, **MINUSMA SRSG Saleh Annadif** and G5 Sahel Permanent Secretary Maman Sambo Sidikou provided a joint briefing to the EU's Political and Security Committee on Mali and the G5 Sahel Joint Force.



Syria Special Envoy de Mistura with HR/VP Mogherini at the Brussels Conference for Syria. Credit: European Commission.

The Second **Brussels Conference on Syria** and the Region took place on **24-25 April**, attended by **Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura**. A total sum of EUR 3.5 billion was pledged for 2018, as well as multi-year pledges of EUR 2.7 billion for the period 2019-2020

On **26 April**, **SRSG and head of UNSMIL, Ghassan Salamé**, visited Brussels for meetings with HR/VP Mogherini, other senior EU officials and the Political and Security Committee (PSC) to discuss the political process and the UN's four-point action plan for Libya.

The **Director of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Agnès Marcaillou**, visited Brussels on **26 April** and had meetings with NATO and the EU to discuss ongoing mine action projects.

On **2 May**, **UNSOM SRSG Michael Keating** addressed the Somalia Security High Level Meeting in Brussels, chaired by EEAS DSG Pedro Serrano and Somalia's PM Hassan Ali Khaire. **Lisa Filipetto**, Head of the **UN Support Office for Somalia**, was also present. The meeting served to signal the widespread support for the Transition Plan agreed by the Somali Council of Ministers.

Alexander Zouev, ASG for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, visited Brussels on **4 May** to meet with the EU, NATO and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Zouev also provided a lecture on the UN peace and security reforms to students at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

From **14-15 May**, SRSG and **Head of the UN Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), Jan Kubiš**, visited Brussels to attend the 3rd Ministerial Conference on the Victims of Ethnic and Religious Violence in the Middle East.

On **22 May**, **UNOWAS Head and SRSG Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, represented the Secretary-General at an international donor conference for The Gambia in Brussels. The **ASG for Peacebuilding Support, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco**, also took part in the conference. Mr. Chambas briefed the EU's Political and Security Committee.

From **22 to 24 May**, a **tabletop exercise** was held in parallel in New York and Brussels, bringing together officials from the **EU Military Staff** and the **Office for Military Affairs (OMA)** and officials from the **Department of Field Support (DFS)**. The exercise dealt with an operations scenario on the African continent.



UN-EU tabletop exercise at UNLOPS office Brussels. Credits: UNLOPS.

On **7 June**, the **UNMAS Director, Agnès Marcaillou**, briefed the EU Council working party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA). Ms. Marcaillou also met with EEAS DSG Pedro Serrano, with whom she discussed the UNMAS IED threat mitigation support in the Sahel.

On **28 June**, the **Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura**, met with HR/VP Mogherini in Brussels to discuss the latest developments regarding the Syria crisis and ongoing work in Geneva for the resumption of the political process.

The **International Commissioner Against Impunity in Guatemala, Iván Velásquez Gómez**, visited Brussels from **2 to 3 July**, briefing EU working groups on Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC) and Human Rights (COHOM).

On **3 July**, the **SRSR for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, Tadamichi Yamamoto**, visited Brussels and met with high-level officials in the EEAS and the European Commission to discuss the follow-up from the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan and the upcoming Geneva Conference scheduled for 28 November



UNAMA SRSR Tadamichi Yamamoto (left) meeting Stefano Manservigi, Director-General of the EU Commission's DG for International Cooperation and Development.
Credits: UNLOPS



USG DiCarlo with EU Commissioner Hahn. Credits: European Commission.

While in Brussels for the NATO Summit from **11-12 July**, **USG for Political Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo**, held several bilateral meetings, including with a range of Foreign Ministers. She also met with high-level EU and NATO officials, including with HR/VP Mogherini and Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn.

USG for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix, spoke at the EU Ambassador Conference on **7 September**, outlining the peacekeeping landscapes and the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative and met with counterparts in the EEAS.

Sample of Representational Activities

On **16 March**, the Dutch Permanent Representation to the EU hosted a breakfast discussion on **UN Peacekeeping Operations** with the Danish Military Representative to the EU and NATO and former Force Commander of MINUSMA, Lieutenant General Michael Lollesgaard, whose presentation focused on improving performance of UN peace operations in high risk and complex environments and lessons learned from MINUSMA. **UNLOPS outlined practical proposals** on how the EU could better support UN peacekeeping operations in Mali and beyond.



On **7-8 June**, UNLOPS represented DPA at the inaugural **Normandy World Peace Forum** in Caen, France, participating in a workshop on mediation and international negotiations with Special Adviser Bathily and in a panel discussion on climate security.



Annick Hiensch (fourth from left) representing UNLOPS at the Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325 Indicators Workshop in Dublin. Credits: Irish DFA

On **13 June**, UNLOPS represented DPKO's gender unit at a **Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325 Indicators Workshop** hosted by the **Irish Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade** and including participation from Clare Hutchinson, the NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace & Security, the EU, the AU, and the OSCE among others. The meeting focused on the development of indicators for evaluating progress on the women, peace and security (WPS) agendas in the participating international organizations.



Irish Prime Minister Varadkar (right) at the state ceremony marking 60 years of Irish engagement in peacekeeping. Credits: CampaignForLeo

UNLOPS Head of Office, Rory Keane, represented DPKO at a state ceremony in Dublin on **24 June** that marked 60 years of continuous **Irish engagement in UN peacekeeping operations**. The event honoured the 87 members of the Irish Defence Forces who died on overseas peacekeeping missions. After a roll of honour and a wreath-laying ceremony, a minute of silence was observed.



On **26 June**, UNLOPS presented the work of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia in a panel discussion at the **London School of Economics** following the screening of the movie **“To End a War”**, organized by UNRIC.

Annick Hiensch (second from right) at the panel discussion in London. Credits: Ciné-ONU

Rory Keane **represented the Secretary-General** at the annual **Crans Montana Forum** from **27 to 29 June** on “the future of global governance” that brought world leaders, international organizations and NGOs together to discuss globalization, climate change and terrorism



On **12 September**, **Kamiel Mesie (UNLOPS)** represented Headquarters at the annual **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Orientation Course in Brussels**, organized by the EU Military Staff and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

Kamiel Mesie (third from right) representing Headquarters at the CSDP Orientation Course. Credits: UNLOPS

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