



UN-EU Launch New Priorities for Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management 2019-2021



On the occasion of the 24th meeting of the UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management, which took place in Brussels on 30 November, the 2019-2021 UN-EU joint priorities for peace operations and crisis management were officially launched.

The steering committee focused on practical in-theatre partnership, including in Mali, the Sahel and the Central African Republic (CAR), and key thematic issues such as policing, the rule of law and women, peace and security (WPS). The UN delegation was led by Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, while the panel on Mali and the Sahel included the participation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of MINUSMA, Mahamat Saleh Annadif. The EU delegation was headed by EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Crisis Response, Pedro Serrano.

The steering committee also discussed the operationalization of the UN-EU joint priorities. It was agreed that a strong emphasis will be put on WPS, including the exchange of best practices with a view to increasing the number of women in UN peace operations and CSDP missions and operations. Other plans include, for instance, conducting a joint conflict and gender analysis in CAR.

Immediately following the steering committee, the UN-EU joint priorities were formally launched at a seminar hosted by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The panel discussion focused on WPS, partnerships, the empowerment of local populations, as well as combined efforts in support of the G5 Sahel.

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UNOCT Establishes Liaison Presence in Brussels

Recognizing that the partnership between the United Nations and the European Union provides a crucial foundation for an effective global response to the multidimensional threat of terrorism, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) has deployed a liaison officer in Brussels as part of the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security.

The first UN-EU Leader's Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism was launched on 25 May 2018, leading to cooperation on a range of issues, including on the prevention of violent extremism and countering the financing of terrorism, supporting the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and addressing the threat of Foreign Terrorist Fighters. A second UN-EU Leader's Dialogue will take place in April 2019, in the wake of the adoption by the Council of the EU of the UN-EU partnership agreement on Counter-Terrorism.



As of 1 November, UNLOPS represents the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism in Brussels through Annick Hiensch.

The Munich Security Conference

On **15-17 February**, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, Vladimir Voronkov, attended the **Munich Security Conference**. The USG participated in a panel discussion on terrorists' use of technologies with Europol Executive Director, Catherine de Bolle, and NATO Assistant Secretary General, Antonio Missiroli. They were joined by the European External Action Service (EEAS) Secretary General Helga Schmid in a roundtable discussion on climate change and security.

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism was created in 2017 as part of the UN Secretariat to provide leadership, enhance coordination and coherence, deliver counter-terrorism capacity building, and improve visibility, advocacy and resources mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts.

Update on EU CSDP Missions and Operations

Over the last six months, several EU CSDP missions and operations were extended. The EU currently has 16 CSDP missions and operations deployed worldwide, ten of which are civilian and six are military missions.

Civilian missions that were extended include **EUCAP Sahel Mali**, prolonged until 14 January 2021 with a budget of EUR 67 Million, and **EUMM Georgia**, extended until 14 December 2020 with a budget of EUR 38.2 Million. In Somalia, both the training mission, **EUTM Somalia**, and the capacity building mission, **EUCAP Somalia**, were extended until 31 December 2020 with a budget of EUR 22.9 Million and EUR 66.1 Million respectively.

On 18 February, the EU's Foreign Affairs Council took further steps in its efforts to '**regionalize**' EU activities in the Sahel, adopting a joint military-civilian concept of operations for all EU missions in the Sahel (EUTM Mali, EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUCAP Sahel Niger). As a result, these missions will now be able to provide "targeted and punctual" training and advice to all G5 countries. The Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell will move from EUCAP Sahel Mali's headquarters in Bamako to Nouakchott.

The advisory mission in Iraq, **EUAM Iraq**, was transformed into a full-fledged civilian mission with a mandate to run until 17 April 2020 and a budget of EUR 64.8 Million, enabling a significant staff increase.

The maritime operation **EUNAVFOR Med Sophia** had already received a three-month technical roll-over in December 2018 and, on 27 March, received another six-month technical roll-over - albeit with its naval assets suspended - and continuing only its air surveillance functions and training support to the Libyan Navy Coastguard.

EU foreign affairs and defence ministers **signed off on a series of measures to strengthen the common security and defence policy** on 19 and 20 November. This included the launching of 17 new projects in the frame of Permanent Structured Cooperation (**PESCO**), ranging from the joint development of a “Eurodrone” to the establishment of a Joint EU Intelligence School. On the civilian side, a **civilian CSDP compact** was launched with a view to enhancing the capacity to rapidly deploy civilian experts and support. On the same occasion, it was decided to broaden the Military Planning and Conduct Capability’s (MPCC) remit. From 2021, a new **European Peace Facility** is expected to give the EU the capacity to contribute directly to the financing of peace support operations led by third countries, as well as relevant international organisations on a global scale.

The **negotiations for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, determining the EU’s spending over the seven-year period 2021-2027, are still ongoing, with a likely increase to the overall budget for external action. The rapid response Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace or its successor may be integrated within a catch-all “**Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument**” - still under negotiation. The terms and conditions for the **European Defence Fund**, dedicated to the research and development of joint EU defence capabilities, were finalized in February 2019. The exact size of its budget remains unclear as much depends on the final MFF negotiations.

In the meantime, the Commission adopted a work programme on 19 March, aimed at co-financing joint **defence industrial projects in 2019-2020** worth up to EUR 500 million, focusing on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threat detection capabilities and innovative defence technologies. A further EUR 25 million have been earmarked to support collaborative defence research projects in 2019.

USG Lacroix meets with European Defence Ministers in Bucharest

As current holder of the rotating EU presidency, Romania hosted the regular informal EU Defence Ministerial on 30 January in Bucharest. As has become the norm, USG for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix participated at the ministerial and addressed the theme of women, peace and security (WPS).



USG Lacroix at the Romanian Gendarmerie Training School, 31 January 2019

In his remarks, USG Lacroix stressed that peacekeeping is more effective when more women peacekeepers are engaged, highlighting the positive effects resulting from women’s involvement in peace processes. He underscored that work on WPS is a priority for the UN, while underlining that challenges remain with regards to resources, an improved working environment and the need to remove obstacles for women to be deployed. USG Lacroix also briefed on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P), stressing the importance of contributions by EU Member States.

USG Lacroix held bilateral meetings with the Irish, Belgian, Portuguese, Czech, Romanian and UK Ministers of Defence. They discussed their respective countries’ involvement in peace operations and how best to deliver A4P commitments. The USG also visited the Romanian Gendarmerie Training School and the Romanian Protection and Guard Service.

2019 in the EU: Elections

2019 is fast becoming an eventful year for the European Union. Aside from the uncertain future of the UK's exit from the European Union, **Brexit**, the EU also is heading towards **European Parliament elections** between 23-26 May and a **new college of Commissioners**, to be put in place thereafter.

The European Parliament elections will see seats reduced from 751 to 705 due to the UK's decision to leave the EU – if the UK does not end up partaking in the elections. While the parliament is structured in political groupings, alliances of like-minded national parties, the campaigning and voting take place on a national level. There has been much speculation about the course and outcome of these elections.

Within six months of parliament elections, a **new Commission** is to be in place (by 1 November 2019), with the Commission President in principle elected through a **Spitzenkandidat system**, meaning that the political grouping which has a majority in the Parliament sees its candidate elected. The **27 Commissioners are subsequently proposed by the Member States** – one for each State – who can only be instigated after being questioned through European parliamentary hearings. Parliament will then vote on the Commission as a whole.



The Team Juncker Commission banner in front of the Commission Berlaymont building.

The European Members on the UN Security Council



Representatives of the five members of the UNSC in 2019.

In 2019, there are five EU Member States serving on the UN Security Council: Belgium, Germany and Poland, alongside the permanent members France and the UK, and efforts have been made to demonstrate good cooperation at UN Security Council (UNSC) level. At the initiative of the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Didier Reynders, ministers or deputy ministers from the five countries met alongside HR/VP Mogherini on 28 January (picture left) and showed a willingness to hold follow-up meetings when useful. HR/VP Mogherini underlined that UNSC members are in the Security Council in their national capacity and that this prerogative was undisputed.

France and Germany have further launched unprecedented joint presidencies of the Security Council for March and April, focusing on the strengthening of the humanitarian system, including the protection of humanitarian personnel. Conflict resolution, the defence of women's rights and a stronger participation of women in peace processes are also on the agenda. This is not a co-presidency, but a coordinated programme of work. Meanwhile, France has declared that it supports a German candidature for a permanent seat in the Security Council in the bilateral Franco-German Treaty of Aachen signed on 22 January. Germany has also raised the issue of a European seat on the Security Council.

HR/VP Mogherini briefed the UN Security Council on 12 March, the last time during her tenure. She underlined the EU's commitment to multilateralism and to the UN. Her briefing covered several geographical files, including Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Venezuela, the Western Balkans and elaborated on EU-Africa relations. Mogherini further reiterated the EU's support to UN peacekeeping and stated that EU Member States were proud to collectively contribute more than one third to the peacekeeping budget.

Institutional Dialogue Mechanisms

During the reporting period, the UN and the EU continued to cooperate through established dialogue mechanisms, one of them being the **UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management** which took place in Brussels on 30 November, as reported on page one.

The annual round of **UN-NATO staff talks** took place at UN headquarters in New York on 23-24 October. Key discussion items included cooperation on women, peace and security, NATO's support for the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, cooperation and lessons learned on protection of civilian, children and armed conflict, Counter-IED and medal performance. The UN delegation provided an update on the UN reform process, while NATO provided an overview of the NATO Summit held on 11-12 July 2018.

In the framework of UN-EU institutional cooperation on conflict prevention, a delegation representing the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme for Building National Capacity for Conflict Prevention (pictured right) participated at a segment of a directors' meeting of the United Nations Working Party of the EU (**CONUN**) on 19 March in Brussels. The CONUN briefing provided the opportunity for EU Member States to engage with two UN peace and development advisors (PDAs) deployed in Côte d'Ivoire and Myanmar to better understand their work in encouraging opportunities for conflict prevention.



The second round of **UN-EU-OSCE** staff talks was held at Director-level on 11 October in Vienna and focused on institutional cooperation and country-specific situations. It also included an initial discussion on Central Asia, as DPPA's Europe Division portfolio has expanded to this region as part of the UN reform. It was agreed to support trilateral consultations with working-level engagements, such as a trilateral video-conference on Central Asia held on 14 February between Brussels, Vienna and New York.

The EU is currently preparing **MILEX 19** which is an annually military exercise. On behalf of UN headquarters, UNLOPS is participating in both the planning and conduct phases of the exercise. The conduct phase is set to take place in November 2019.

UN Visitors to Brussels

On **5 October**, the **Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Myanmar**, Christine Schraner Burgener, visited Brussels and had meetings with the EEAS, Commission and EU member states.



(Former) **Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) to the African Union (AU) and Head of UNOAU, Sahle-Work Zewde** (pictured left), addressed the opening session of the EU-hosted high-level conference on **"The Future of International Election Observation"** on **10-11 October** in Brussels. She highlighted the principles of international election observation and the strong UN-EU partnership, as well as the trilateral partnership with the AU. **AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Cessouma Minata Samate**, referenced the good cooperation with the UN and emphasized the need to focus on the post-election phase, notably in places such as Mali.

SRSG and Head of UNOWAS, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, and Craig Jennes, Director of DPPA's Electoral Assistance Division, also participated at the conference on international election observation. The conference was closed by HR/VP Mogherini who highlighted the importance of the EU's cooperation on elections with the UN and AU.



On **10 October**, **SRSG and Head of UNSMIL, Ghassan Salamé** (pictured left), visited Brussels for meetings with NATO's North Atlantic Council, NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg and HR/VP Mogherini. With Mogherini, Salamé discussed the EU's support to the UN's work in Libya and the recently brokered ceasefire.

On **12 October**, **Thomas Kontogeorgos** (pictured right), Chief of the DDR Section in OROLSI, visited Brussels and gave a briefing to a joint session of the Council's Politico-Military Group (PMG) and the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM). He also had meetings with EEAS and Commission officials.



On **19 October**, **former UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura** and HR/VP Mogherini met in Brussels. They discussed the situation in Idlib, stressed the importance of the establishment of the constitutional committee and touched on the Brussels III Conference taking place in March 2019. HR/VP Mogherini took the opportunity to express appreciation on behalf of the EU for the work of the Special Envoy during the last four years.

SRSG and Head of UNMIK, Zahir Tanin, visited Brussels on **30 October** and **1 November**, meeting with the NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary Generals (ASG) for Political Affairs and Operations respectively, as well as NATO's Special Representative for WPS. At the EEAS, SRSG Tanin met with the DSG for CSDP and Crisis Response and the EEAS Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia.



SRSG and Head of UNAMA, Tadamichi Yamamoto (pictured left), visited Brussels on **9 November** and met with NATO Deputy Secretary General, Rose Gottemoeller, as well as senior EEAS and Commission officials. Discussions with the EU centered on the Geneva conference that took place later in November 2018. SRSG Yamamoto also met with senior EU officials.

On **29 November**, **USG for Peace Operations Lacroix** participated at the **International Forum for the Challenges of Peace Operations** in Stockholm (Challenges Forum) and provided a key note address focusing on how to deliver and implement the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative. He also held several bilateral meetings.

On **14 January in The Hague**, **USG Lacroix** (pictured right) **participated in a preparatory meeting in advance of the UN Peacekeeping ministerial in New York slated for 29 March**. He delivered a keynote address on themes related to performance and protection of civilians and held a bilateral meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Blok. HR/VP Mogherini delivered a dinner speech in which she reiterated the EU's support



to UN peacekeeping and discussed UN-EU partnership. In the margins of the meeting, EU member state representatives discussed a proposal for an informal European rotational system in support of UN peacekeeping.

Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directory (CTED), Michèle Coninx, visited Brussels on **5-7 December** and had bilateral meetings with EU partners. The ASG briefed the Council Working Party on Counter-Terrorism (COTER) and delivered remarks at the EU Internet Forum on 6 December.



Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, USG Adama Dieng (pictured left), visited Brussels on **16-18 January** and met with high-ranking officials from the EEAS and the European Commission Directorate General for Neighborhood Policy. Special Advisor Dieng also briefed EU PSC Ambassadors and participated in a civil society roundtable on “Europe’s Responsibility to Protect Both at Home and Abroad”. USG Dieng furthermore met with Tiina Astola, DG of the Directorate General for Justice and Consumers.

SRSR and Head of UNMISS, David Shearer, (pictured right) visited Brussels on **21 February** for meetings with EU PSC Ambassadors, as well as senior EU and Belgian officials. He stressed the importance of regional support for the political agreement in South Sudan and encouraged EU engagement in a range of areas from SSR, policing, peacebuilding and reconciliation.



The **UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen**, made his first visit to Brussels in his current position on **22 February**. During his visit, he discussed the Brussels III Syria donor conference with HR/VP Mogherini. On **13 and 14 March**, Special Envoy Pedersen travelled to Brussels to participate in the Syria conference where a total of US\$ 7 billion was raised to support Syria and its neighborhood.



Recently appointed **SRSR and head of MINUSCA, Mankeur Ndiaye**, (pictured left) visited Brussels on 27 February for meetings with EEAS senior leadership. EEAS interlocutors stressed that CAR is a priority for the EU, noted the importance of trilateral UN-AU-EU partnership and discussed ways to support the implementation of the Political Accord for Peace and Reconciliation.

A delegation of the **UN committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people** (pictured right) visited Brussels between **3-6 March** for talks with EU and Belgian officials. Speaking to the press, the delegation welcomed the EU’s principled position on Palestine, while stressing the need for more practical steps to move the political process forward.



Deputy Director of the DPPA/DPO Europe and Central Asia Division, **Hervé Lecoq**, visited Brussels on **18 and 19 March** and met with officials in the EEAS, the European Commission Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and the cabinet of Commission President Juncker, as well as with NATO officials.

Deputy Director of DPPA’s Policy and Mediation Division (PMD), Roselyn Akombe, visited Brussels on 18-19 February as part of a delegation representing the Joint UNDP—DPPA Programme for Building National

Capacity for Conflict Prevention. The delegation, which included UNDP and UN Peace and Development Advisors from Côte d'Ivoire and Myanmar, held a range of meetings with the EEAS, European Commission and the European Parliament and also addressed UN Department Directors in the EU member states ministries of foreign affairs.

UN Special Advisor for the Responsibility to Protect, Karen Smith, visited Brussels on **19 March**. Special Adviser Smith briefed the EU working party on the UN (CONUN) and held meetings with high-level EU officials, including newly appointed EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon Gilmore.

Sample of UNLOPS Representational Activities

On **UN Day - 24 October** - Annick Hiensch participated in a launch event marking the deployment to MINUSMA of the multi-sensor detachment of the Belgian ISTAR battalion. Lukas Böhm took part in UNRIC Belgium's "Back to School" initiative marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



On **25 October**, Halil Kosumi participated in a **NATO expert meeting on "Building Integrity"**, to which representatives from the UN, the AU, the World Bank and the EU were invited to share experiences and best practices on the fight against corruption and building of transparent institutions in the defence sector.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Julia Friedrich participated in a **UN Brussels-wide initiative on 22 November**. A stand at the European Parliament included both information material and interactive features, such as a wall on which passers-by could express what Human Rights meant to them.



On behalf of headquarters, **Rory Keane travelled to Romania** on 5 and 6 December in anticipation of the Romanian Presidency of the European Council. Discussions focused on Romania's most recent contributions to the UN, as well as its training facilities and Romania's priorities for its Council presidency.



On **23 January**, Kamiel Mesie represented Headquarters at the Brussels Dialogue on Climate Diplomacy themed "EU and UN Action on Climate Diplomacy – The Year Ahead". He briefed on the upcoming UN Climate Summit on 23 September in New York to be convened by the Secretary-General and provided examples of ongoing work of the UN on climate and environment, such as in the Sahel and Central Asia, and of efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of UN Peace Operations.



On 29 January, Rory Keane and Halil Kosumi briefed **EU Member States in the PMG** on the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial on 29 March in New York. Key themes included capabilities, performance and protection.



On the occasion of the visit to Brussels of Faustin-Archange **Touadera**, President of the **Central African Republic**, Rory Keane took part in a meeting with representatives of the EU, AU and UN, as well as civil society organizations on 7 March. During the panel discussion, President Touadera stressed that delivery on the new peace agreement should be fast and efficient, while there was also need to "believe in it" to make the implementation of the agreement work.

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