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**NOTE**

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from: Council Secretariat  
to: Political Security Committee

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Subject : Annual Report on the implementation of the EU Programme on the Prevention of  
Violent Conflict 2010

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Delegations will find attached the Draft Annual Report on the implementation of the EU  
Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflict 2010 with a view of discussion on 04 June 2010.

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## List of Abbreviations

ACD – Afghan Customs Department  
ACP - Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States  
AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome  
AMIS – African Union Mission in Sudan  
AMISOM – African Union Mission in Somalia  
ANP – Afghan National Police  
APSA – African Peace and Security Architecture  
AQAP – Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula  
ARF –ASEAN Regional Forum  
ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
AU – African Union  
BiH – Bosnia and Herzegovina  
BOMCA – Border Management Programme in Central Asia  
CADAP – Central Asia Drug Action Programme  
CAR – Central African Republic  
CFSP – Common Foreign and Security Policy  
CICIG - Comisión Internacional contra la Impunidad en Guatemala  
CNDP – Congrès national pour la défense du peuple  
COMESA – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa  
COPPS – Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support  
CSDP – Common Strategy and Defence Policy  
CSP – Country Strategy Paper  
DDR - Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration  
DRC – Democratic Republic of the Congo  
EAC – East African Community  
EaP – Eastern Partnership  
EC – European Community  
ECHO – Directorate General for Humanitarian Assistance  
ECO – Economic Cooperation Organisation

ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States  
EDF – European Development Fund  
EECCA – Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia  
EEM – Election Expert Mission  
EIB – European Investment Bank  
EIDHR – European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights  
ENP – European Neighbourhood Policy  
ENRTP – Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme  
EOM – Election Observation Mission  
EPCA – Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance  
EPLO – European Peacebuilding Liaison Office  
ERW- Explosive Remnants of War  
ESDP – European Security and Defence Policy  
ESA – Eastern and Southern Africa  
EU – European Union  
EUBAM - European Union Border Assistance Mission to Republic of Moldova and Ukraine  
EUBAM Rafah – European Union Border Assistance Mission to Rafah  
EUFOR – European Union Force  
EUPM – European Union Police Mission  
EUPM BiH – EUPM Bosnia-Herzegovina  
EUPOL AFG – European Union Police Mission to Afghanistan  
EUSEC – EU Security Sector Reform Mission  
EUSR – European Union Special Representative  
EUWI – European Union Water Initiative  
FAC – Foreign Affairs Council  
FDLR – Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda  
FEMIP – Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership  
FLEGT – European Union Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade  
FNL – Forces for National Liberation (Burundi)  
FoDP – Friends of Democratic Pakistan  
FOMUC - Force multinationale en Centrafrique  
FYROM – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
GAC - General Affairs Council  
GCCA – Global Climate Change Alliance

GORTT – Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
HDC – Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue  
HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
HoM– Head of Mission  
ICC – International Criminal Court  
ICO - International Civilian Office  
ICTY – International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia  
IDDRP – Interim Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme  
IDP – Internally Displaced Person  
IfS – Instrument for Stability  
IGAD – Intergovernmental Authority on Development  
ILO – International Labour Organisation  
IMF – International Monetary Fund  
IMT – International Monitoring Team  
IPA – Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance  
KP – Kimberley Process  
LDC – Less Developed Country  
LOTFA – Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan  
LRA – Lord’s Resistance Army  
MS – European Union Member State  
MoU – Memorandum of Understanding  
MIC – Monitoring and Information Centre  
MINURCAT – Mission des Nations Unies en République Centrafricaine et au Tchad  
MICOPAX - Mission de consolidation de la paix en Centrafrique  
MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front  
MNLF –Moro National Liberation Front  
MPC – Mindanao Peoples Caucus  
NACTA – National Counter-Terrorism Authority (Pakistan)  
NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation  
NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation

NIP – National Indicative Programme  
NPD – National Policy Dialogue  
NSA – Non-state actor  
NVPF – Non-Violent Peace Force  
OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development  
OECD / DAC – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development / Development Assistance Committee  
OHR – Office of the High Representative  
OSCE – Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe  
PbP – Peace-building Partnership  
PEGASE - Palestino-Européen de Gestion et d'Aide Socio-Economique  
PNC – Parti National Congolais  
REJUSCO – Restauration de la Justice à l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo  
SALW – Small Arms and Light Weapons  
SIDS – Small Island Developing States  
SSR – Security Sector Reform  
TRC – Truth and Reconciliation Commission  
UfM – Union for the Mediterranean  
UN – United Nations  
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme  
UNIFEM – United Nations Development Fund for Women  
UNRWA – United Nations Relief and Works Agency  
UNSC – United Nations Security Council  
UNSCR – United Nations Security Council Resolution  
UPDF – Uganda People's Defence Forces  
VPA – Voluntary Partnership Agreement  
WFD – World Food Programme

## I. Introduction

Conflict prevention remains at the heart of EU external actions as stated in the **EU Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflict** (Gothenburg Programme 2001). Since 2002 the European Union (EU) has annually presented reports on its activities in the field of conflict prevention. This Annual Report sets out activities since July 2009.

In order to provide more strategic information and evaluate the progress achieved during the reporting period, the 2010 Annual Report focuses on key developments in five thematic areas of conflict prevention, namely the following: 1. mediation, dialogue facilitation and political dialogue; 2. security, justice and law enforcement; 3. democratisation, elections and human rights; 4. climate change and security; and 5. natural resources in conflict. The final chapters present capacity building by EU actors and EU cooperation with other actors in the field of conflict prevention.

The report gives a strategic overview of how the EU actors use various instruments for foreign relations to support conflict prevention by presenting a limited set of examples. However, not all specific areas or activities of relevance for conflict prevention are covered by this report.

## II. Implementation of the recommendations of the Annual Report 2009 and new recommendations

Throughout the reporting period the European Union continued its efforts to promote a **culture of conflict prevention** and conflict sensitivity by raising awareness of emerging security threats, developing skills within the administrations and enhancing coherence with major international partners, particularly the UN.

Strengthening the link between **early warning and early action** continues to be the focus of EU efforts. Institutional experiences in this field have been discussed under the “Sharing of best practices on building up national preventive capabilities” framework. Lessons are being learned from the Haiti crisis which will contribute to fine-tuning the present chain of alerts and reactions throughout the EU institutions.

In order to develop a more coordinated and focused approach towards **dialogue and mediation** the Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities was adopted by the Council in November 2009.

**Security threats** related to energy security and cyber crime have been placed on the agenda of political dialogues with the UN, the AU, ASEAN, the USA, Canada, China, India and Russia.

In the domain of **security, justice and law enforcement** reform processes continued to be at the centre of EU action by several CSDP missions and of measures and programmes adopted by the Commission. These efforts contributed to the democratisation and good governance processes, which are often focal areas for EU development cooperation.

The EU pursued its efforts to combat the **proliferation and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW)** and their ammunition in affected regions by using all its available instruments, both from a development and a security perspective, to address the supply and the demand side of SALW.

The **security implications of climate change** have become an integral part of the EU dialogues with major international partners and regional organisations. The regional scenarios elaborated for South West Asia, South East Asia, Central America and Indian-Pacific Ocean Island States serve as a solid basis for further developing cooperation with the countries concerned.

Addressing the security and development nexus and ensuring a **comprehensive approach** to situations of fragility (Whole-of-EU, Whole-of-Government approaches) was thoroughly discussed both within the EU and with other international actors and civil society. In the case of Yemen a comprehensive approach was agreed, to engage with the Government and with regional and international partners to settle tensions and create conditions for stability. Concrete actions for EU actors will be further elaborated in the EU Action Plan for Situations of Conflict and Fragility to be presented in 2010.



The EU has intensified its efforts to break the link between conflicts and **natural resources**, notably through its mediation of an agreement between the Kimberley Process and Zimbabwe aiming at putting an end to violence and human rights violations in the Marange diamond fields. In the context of **energy security**, EU efforts have concentrated on consolidating relations and enhancing collaboration with the Eastern neighbours.

With regard to **capacity building**, the EU continued to pay specific attention to the instruments of early warning, including open source intelligence, addressing the shortfalls related to civilian CSDP missions, strengthened commitments to developing military capabilities and further expanding its training programmes. The two-year programme on awareness-raising and skills-building of EU actors in conflict prevention was completed in December 2009, and a follow-up programme for 2010-11 has been launched.

Under the framework of the Peace-building Partnership (financed by the Instrument for Stability) the **dialogue with civil society** organisations was further enhanced. Consultation meetings provided the opportunity for civil society experts to exchange views with EU policy-makers on specific geographic crises, for example Somalia.

### **New recommendations**

- Continue to further strengthen the culture of conflict prevention and conflict sensitivity underpinned by an adequate and dedicated capability for conflict prevention within the framework of the European External Action Service (EEAS), including to ensure that longer term conflict prevention activities are closely linked to crisis management activities and that this forms part of a comprehensive approach to all phases of conflict.
- Conclude a stocktaking process of the Gothenburg Programme in the first semester of 2011 in view of a document which takes account of relevant developments, including the findings of the European Commission evaluation of conflict prevention and peace building. The EU must keep the implementation of the programme under review.

- Make progress in implementing the Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities and ensure adequate resources. Strive to promote dialogue and mediation as a tool of first response to emerging or ongoing crisis situations.
- Strengthen the ability to cooperate between EU institutions, Member States and international actors in the domain of early warning and open source intelligence, with a special focus on complex security threats. Shorten the gap between political responses and concrete activities on the ground.
- Build on conflict-sensitive assessments and EU-wide coordination when starting preparations for the new country strategy papers for the next Multiannual Financial Frameworks (2014-19) in 2011. The assessments should be undertaken systematically and EU Delegations should be provided with operational guidance on how best to carry out conflict-sensitive programming.
- Enhance the integrated approach and the multilateral and inclusive dialogue with the most affected regions and partners when building capabilities and addressing threats related to peace and security including climate change, cyber security and scarcity of natural resources.
- Provide assistance in building institutional and national capacities to prevent the most extreme human rights violations such as genocide and mass atrocities, and in implementing the concept of Responsibility to Protect.
- Strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organisations in sharing of information, raising awareness, building capacities and acting in the field.
- Continue and strengthen training activities in the fields of rule of law, human rights, international humanitarian law and the law of armed conflict, protection of civilians, gender, peace building, post-conflict reconstruction, security sector reform, with a view to further building capacities in EU conflict prevention and crisis management.

### III. EU activities in the various domains

#### 1. Dialogue and mediation (with a focus on preventive diplomacy)

One of the main domains of EU conflict prevention activities is preventive diplomacy where the EU engages in dialogues and supports mediation efforts at various levels. In order to develop a more coordinated and focused approach towards mediation and dialogue facilitation the *Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities* was adopted by the Council in November 2009.

In mediation and reconciliation efforts the EU applies a **comprehensive approach** combining political engagement with financial support. International and regional organisations as well as civil society organisations are vital partners for the EU in these efforts. The Concept also outlines practical measures for strengthening EU mediation capacities, *inter alia* through training and operational support. The Instrument for Stability and the African Peace Facility are currently the two most relevant financial instruments for supporting mediation activities. An informal Mediation Support Group (MSG), consisting of representatives of the Council Secretariat and the Commission coordinates activities and will prepare the review process of the concept.

During the reporting period, Africa remained the focus of EU dialogue and mediation activities undertaken in close cooperation with the international community. In the **Mano River Basin (Guinea and Liberia), Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar and the Great Lakes Region** the EU has been an active member of the International Contact Groups (ICG). In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** the missions EUSEC RD Congo, EUPOL RD Congo and MONUC have served as an effective framework for cooperation with international partners.

In 2009 the EU continued to pursue its cooperation with the UN Peace-Building Commission in **Burundi**, addressing various issues such as support to dialogue between local political actors, management of land disputes, rehabilitation of barracks and the reintegration of former combatants into civilian life (DDR). The EU's support to the regional peace initiative has proven to be fruitful.

The FNL, the last rebel group, disarmed and became a political party. The AU mission left the country and the Peace Process for Burundi met for the last time in December 2009.

In the **Horn of Africa** the EU has worked in active partnership with civil society. In **Ethiopia** it supported several projects addressing conflict management among pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. The programme in the Gurage area includes alternative dispute resolution based on traditional law. Under the Peace-building Partnership, an informal consultation meeting was organised in Brussels in March 2010 with civil society representatives from **Somalia**. The meeting made recommendations on how to improve international involvement in Somalia.

The EU also stepped up its diplomatic activities to bring about positive change in **Burma/Myanmar**, especially through the work of the Special Envoy. In view of the planned 2010 elections, the EU, in close coordination with the ASEAN countries and the US, has decided to start a direct high-level dialogue with the government.

Following the **North Korean (DPRK)** nuclear test and the subsequent ballistic missile launches (June-July 2009) the EU revised its Common Position concerning restrictive measures against the DPRK and implemented UN Security Council Resolution 1874 (2009) in a robust way. It called on Pyongyang to re-engage in the process of Six Party Talks as the most viable path towards denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and to comply with the relevant UNSC Resolutions. It also encouraged dialogue and confidence-building measures between the DPRK on the one side and the US and Japan on the other, as well as the improvement of inter-Korean relations, as important steps towards denuclearisation and regional stability.

The EU **Special Representatives and Special Envoys** and Presidency Special Representatives play a significant role in conducting and facilitating dialogues and mediation efforts. For example, in the **Western Balkans** the EU currently has three EUSRs working to enhance stability in the region. While following political developments they all work to support the progress and realisation of the EU perspective for the region. In 2009 the activities of the EU Special Representatives for **South Caucasus, Crisis in Georgia**, Republic of **Moldova** and **Central Asia** contributed significantly to the consolidation of the situations in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood. Similarly, a vital role was

played by the EUSRs in Africa and the Middle East. A multi-dimensional IfS programme was adopted in 2009 to enhance confidence-building actions in Georgia with a strong focus on civil society activities, whilst additional support to dialogue and mediation initiatives is being launched in 2010. The European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia) is currently the only international peace mission in Georgia and it plays also an important role in confidence building by co-chairing the meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms, where the parties to the conflict meet regularly, in the framework of the Geneva process. The mission has played a decisive role in reducing tension and maintaining stability in the region.

The EU provided support to the activities of three NGOs that are being instrumental in the resumption of the peace talks and undertaking complementary actions in four conflict zones in the **Philippines/Mindanao**. That substantially contributed to the improvement of the security situation from September 2009 onwards notably allowing the return of a great number of Internally Displaced Persons. Particular attention has been paid to the inclusion of women in capacity-building activities. The effective action taken has prompted local leaders to reflect on further ways to prevent greater terrorism and election-related conflicts and to reduce armed violence.

In October 2009 a project was launched through the Instrument for Stability to promote a set of agreements with the social movements representing indigenous populations, workers and peasants, as a basis for the construction of a national dialogue in **Bolivia**. Moreover, the appointment of facilitators accepted by opposing factions has facilitated the intra- and inter-regional dialogue processes.

Under the **high-level political dialogues** between the EU and third countries and regions views were exchanged on several critical issues in the domain of security policies. For example, the **EU-China** Summit and the Foreign Ministerial Troika held in Nanjing in November 2009 served as a forum to discuss topics of common interest: the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, the Iranian nuclear issue, the situation in Burma/Myanmar and Sri Lanka, and developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It was also agreed to explore appropriate areas for trilateral cooperation between the EU, China and Africa. Furthermore, the EU and China have recently agreed to set up a dialogue on CSDP issues, including information-sharing on respective crisis-management activities and possible forms of practical cooperation.

The Cotonou Agreement between the EU and the **African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP)** was revised during the reporting period. The pan-African dimension has been strengthened by recognising the role of the African Union, in particular in Article 8 (political dialogues), Article 96 (consultation procedure and appropriate measures) and Article 11 (conflict prevention). The Agreement continues to provide an agreed framework for political dialogues as well as a framework for a return to constitutional order for countries in crisis, with Article 96 playing a key role, *inter alia* in **Mauritania, Niger, Guinea and Madagascar**. In Guinea, in the context of Article 96 consultations, a roadmap leading to legislative and presidential elections was agreed, with interim benchmarks allowing for progressive resumption of development cooperation, as well as EU financial support to prepare for these elections.

## 2. Security, justice and law enforcement

In preventing the escalation and recurrence of conflict situations the EU devotes specific attention to improving security with a special focus on strengthening the rule of law and supporting Security Sector Reform in the countries concerned, as well as addressing trans-regional and cross-border threats. EU actions take place at all levels, through launching CSDP missions, implementing a wide variety of (development) programmes, and providing support to local NGOs.

### *Law enforcement and reform of the justice sector*

The fight against impunity is one of the cornerstones of the EU's approach to post-conflict resolution and building and maintaining lasting peace. In 2010 the EU has continued to give strong support to the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Solomon Islands and other similar institutions. The EU provided assistance in support of the justice and reconciliation process in Timor Leste. Furthermore, the EU is actively engaged in support of the **reforms of judicial systems and transitional justice processes**, which have a direct impact on the stability and development of third countries.

During the reporting period the EU actively contributed to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1804 (2008) to **fight impunity** and to prevent the provision, from European territory, of any form of support for the benefit of the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FdlR) in the **Great Lakes Region**. An informal group was created for that purpose under the auspices of the EUSR for the African Great Lakes Region. The EU continues to support the UN-sponsored Commission against impunity in **Guatemala** – CICIG.

Several EU projects in **Benin, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Congo** and **the CAR** reinforce the capacities of the institutions of the law enforcement and judiciary sector. In some programmes support to reform of the prison system and/or the police was included whereas others reinforced the demand side of justice.

The EU has played a particularly important role in supporting judicial reform in the **DRC**. Under the REJUSCO programme, the EU has facilitated the reinforcement of local justice institutions and access to justice in the Eastern provinces by ensuring fair and impartial trials and fighting impunity in North and South Kivu and Ituri since 2006. A new programme, UHAKI SAFI ("Fair Justice"), currently in its formulation phase, will consolidate the results obtained by REJUSCO with the objective of gradually integrating it into the nationwide reform.

EULEX **KOSOVO** and the EU Police Mission in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** continued providing the assistance in promoting **rule of law** reforms and fighting organised crime and corruption. EUJUST LEX mission was extended for one year and started its first pilot activities on Iraqi territory. It is stepping up its engagement in support of the rule of law in **Iraq**.

With the adoption of the Plan for Strengthening EU Action in Afghanistan and Pakistan (the Action Plan) in October 2009, the EU aims to enhance and consolidate its civilian assistance efforts by more effectively channelling its resources and striving for a common approach towards priorities and programmes in the two countries to improve the delivery of its assistance. Further to enhancing regional cooperation and improving EU coordination as part of international initiatives, for **Afghanistan** the EU aims to strengthen Afghan capacity and ownership and the rule of law and to promote economic growth through agriculture and rural development.

For **Pakistan** the EU support will focus on supporting the Malakand Development Strategy, strengthening cooperation on the rule of law, democracy and human rights and socio-economic development. In addition, a substantive, multi-dimensional IfS programme was adopted late 2009 to support national and provincial counter-terrorism capacities, both in prosecution services and law enforcement agencies.

The distinctive role of EUPOL **AFGHANISTAN**, notably in providing civilian policing expertise, is key to the sustainability of police reforms in Afghanistan, as well as to the fight against corruption, drugs and crimes. EUPOL COPPS focused its efforts on strengthening its advisory section on the rule of law co-located with their **Palestinian** counterparts and its advocacy for the Civil Policing Model and support for Community Policing.

In Uruguay, the EU together with the UN, is actively involved in supporting the reform of the judicial and penal systems with a view to improving crime prevention and the condition of detainees in prison and following up the observations made by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture during his mission to Uruguay in March 2009. The EU confirmed in 2009 its strong focus on the reform of the justice and security sector in **Guatemala**. A new phase of the programme of support to the security sector has been planned for **Honduras** and will be launched in 2011, with a strong emphasis on preventive actions for the country's prison system.

Through ongoing projects funded under the Instrument for Stability, the EU provides support for the implementation of the Justice and Peace Law, **Colombia's transitional justice** process, which assists victims and victims' organisations. The conflict in Colombia remains the focus of EU assistance. Equally through the IfS, in 2000 an EU senior team started advising the **Philippines** authorities on the handling of extra-judicial killings.



*Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR)*

The **SSR** is a key factor in ensuring long-lasting peace and sustainable development. Throughout 2009 important advances were made in consolidating the EU's role and concrete output in the SSR area, in particular through civilian CSDP Missions.

Considerable progress was made on the implementation of the agreement of November 2008 to enhance the capability of the EU in the area of Security Sector Reform (SSR) by creating a pool of European SSR experts. Work was taken forward on developing a Guiding Framework for EU SSR Assessments aimed at providing a practical tool for assessing and planning possible EU SSR actions.

In 2009 new SSR support programmes were launched in **Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Central Asia, Central America, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Mozambique, Nicaragua** and **Pakistan**. The EU has provided experts for a mission led by ECOWAS and the UN to identify a SSR programme in Guinea.

The ongoing negotiations on an Association Agreement with **Central America** include important provisions in the area of security, such as the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts. A European expert mission visited **Mexico** in April 2010 to assess cooperation avenues in the area of security, including the feasibility of trilateral cooperation between the EU, Mexico and Central America. At the EU-Mexico summit in May 2010, a High level Dialogue on Security was launched between the two.

The EU SSR **Guinea-Bissau** mandate was extended for six months in November 2009 to complete the activities planned and to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the legal framework by the authorities of Guinea-Bissau.

EUSEC **RD Congo** providing advice and assistance for defence reform and good governance increased efforts to address impunity for crimes, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, committed by the security forces and the use of child soldiers. EUPOL RD Congo achieved some

positive results in supporting the reform of the Congolese national police and its interaction with the justice sector. The mission in Goma and Bukavu was reinforced in Eastern Congo through the deployment of additional specialised personnel.

In **Sudan**, the EU continues to support the UNDP's Interim Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (IDDRP) for ex-combatants in Southern Sudan. In **Burundi**, the EU contributed in 2009 to the WB Trust Fund for DDR.

The EU supported the Security Sector Review in **Timor Leste** by making provision for long-term advisors to various Timor Leste institutions, development of national security policy, and training and mentoring.

#### *Addressing trans-regional and cross-border threats*

In the **Sahel** region, particularly in Mali and Mauritania, the EU continued its initiative to support these countries in tackling the multiple issues threatening their security and development: terrorist movements, integration of nomad populations in the Northern zones, sharing of revenue from mining and other natural resources, existence of Islamist and fundamentalist groups, illegal migration, trafficking of drugs and arms and human trafficking.

While the CSDP ATALANTA/EUNAVFOR mission continued to contribute to maritime security off the coast of **Somalia**, notably in the Gulf of Aden and in the Somali Basin, in July 2009 the Council decided to step up the EU's commitment to promoting peace and development in Somalia in close cooperation with the AU, the UN and other relevant partners. A new CSDP mission was launched in April 2010 to help train Somali Transitional Federal Government Security Forces.

To address the spread of piracy activities in the waters between Somalia and **Seychelles** which is a threat to tourism and fisheries vital to the country's economy, the EU extended operation Atalanta to the country's exclusive economic sea zone (EEZ), and through the Instrument for Stability it supports programmes run by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist police, court and prison services in Kenya and Seychelles overcome constraints linked to taking on piracy trials.

In the **Western Balkans**, a mine clearance and technical survey project is underway in the framework of Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). Under the Instrument for Stability, the co-funding of the UNDP project on ammunition and weapons destruction in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** has been extended until June 2011.

Operation ALTHEA remained an important part of EU's comprehensive efforts in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country and support its efforts to advance the EU integration process. The preparatory planning work for the future evolution of Operation ALTHEA towards a non-executive capacity-building and training operation is progressing. The coherence of EU action in BiH remains important.

The EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah (EUBAM Rafah) maintained its operational capability. With the extension of its mandate until May 2011 the EU's readiness to redeploy at short notice at the Rafah Crossing Point was confirmed.

The seminar on Measures to Enhance Maritime Security: Legal and Practical Aspects, organised by the EU within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (**ARF**) in November 2009, concluded that existing international legislation did not comprehensively address all maritime security threats in the region and agreed to look for ways of transferring experience and best practices from other regions (coast of Somalia) to South East Asia.

### 3. Democratisation, elections and human rights

Given the fact that democracy and respect of human rights is an important precondition of stability and security, the EU makes substantial efforts to provide support for democratic processes and respect of human rights, thereby addressing the root causes of violent conflicts.

#### *Democratisation*

In November 2009 the Council adopted conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU's External Relations and set out an Agenda for Action to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness between

existing EU policies and instruments. Key principles include the recognition that democracy is a home-grown process which cannot be imposed from the outside and requires a country-specific approach and the affirmation that there will be no new conditionality for development aid.

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is a significant EU instrument in implementing the EU objectives in this domain.

The EU enlargement policy including the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) for the **Western Balkans** provides a comprehensive institutional framework for the support of the democratization, reconciliation, good governance and respect of human rights in the whole region. Six SA-Agreements have been signed since 2004 and all of them are implemented smoothly. Regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations, rule of law, good governance and fight against corruption and organised crime are key elements of the SAP.

In **Central Asia** and in the **South Caucasus**, the European Union works closely with international partners (UN, OSCE and the Council of Europe) to strengthen democracy and institutional reforms aiming at the stabilisation of the public administration and the constitutional and legal framework, including electoral reforms and enhanced political participation. New targeted projects in this area have started during the reporting period in Armenia and Georgia.

Governance and democratisation have also become critical for EU action in fragile states. In June 2009 the EU relaunched the political dialogue with **Zimbabwe** with the aim of establishing a roadmap towards both implementation of the Global Political Agreement and normalisation of the relations, with the lifting of the current measures. To back this process a Short-Term Transition Strategy was formulated to stabilise the Inclusive Government and its reform programme. Furthermore, the European Union has continued to support civil society initiatives to help secure the basis of democracy and the national reconciliation process. As for Guinea, the EU has adjusted its strategy, emphasising new priorities related to SSR, the fight against impunity and democratisation through the election process.

As from 2009 the EU shifted its assistance from yearly to medium-term planning in **Iraq**, which reflected the EU's will to launch longer term development cooperation. The 2009/2010 Capacity Building Programme in Iraq focuses *inter alia*. on support to good governance (electoral process, human rights, civil society) and basic services, including the return of IDPs/refugees.

The EU has continued to support the consolidation of democracy in **Bangladesh** and to encourage the reforms announced by the Government in its 2008 election manifesto. Special attention was paid to Government-opposition relations, the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord and the plight of the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

In the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, funds were allocated to **Central American** countries to support civil society activities aiming at the development and consolidation of democracy and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. For example, with regard to the general and local elections in Bolivia in December 2009 and April 2010, targeted assistance was provided under the Instrument for Stability to further the democratic process and reforms.

#### *Elections and electoral reform*

The EU role regarding elections includes EU Election Observation Missions, **follow up to the recommendations of these missions to strengthen the electoral system**, technical and financial assistance in the organisation of elections and programmes for the reform electoral systems.

During the reporting period, *EU Election Observation Missions* were deployed in **Togo, Guinea-Bissau, Comoros, Bolivia, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and Republic of Moldova**. In these fragile contexts, the EU has played a crucial role in the stabilisation of election processes and the consolidation of a culture of democracy.

In highly polarised political environments such as **Iraq** (provincial and regional elections), **Nicaragua** (local and regional), **Niger** (presidential) or **Honduras** (general), the EU decided to deploy *Electoral Expert Missions* as well as an *Electoral Assessment Team* (general elections in **Iraq**) for technical monitoring of the election processes and their results.

In addition to the EU EOM, under the Instrument for Stability, a programme was adopted to support and facilitate the deployment of African Union Election Observation Missions (EOM) in African countries affected by crisis to help prevent and mitigate electoral-related conflict. So far, one AU EOM has been deployed to the legislative elections in Comoros in December 2009.

EU support dedicated to *electoral reform* was provided in **Bolivia, Republic of Moldova, Guinea** and **Tanzania** in partnership with the UNDP administration.

### *Human rights*

The EU has made human rights a central aspect of its external relations with a specific focus on the needs of women and children in crisis and conflict situation.

**Human rights dialogues** enable dedicated discussions to be held with third countries at a level of detail not possible in other formats. During the implementation period, an EU-**Brazil** Human Rights dialogue was launched mainly focussing on the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty and the fighting of discrimination based on sexual orientation and children's rights. A Human Rights dialogue has also been launched with **Indonesia** and the **Republic of Moldova** as a sign of the common will to consolidate, deepen and further diversify the existing relationship. The EU-**African Union** human rights dialogue addressed, in the two sessions held in 2009, the issue of Women, Peace and Security.

The EU is committed to addressing the **impact of armed conflicts on children** in a comprehensive manner. In line with UN Security Council resolution 1882 (2009) on the protection of children and in accordance with the priority list of the UN Special Representative for Children Affected by

Armed Conflicts the EU focuses its efforts on 19 priority countries. The EU activities aim at supporting the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children affected by armed conflicts and strengthening capacities to monitor child rights violations during conflicts in order to bring child rights offenders to justice.

Following up the ‘Comprehensive EU Approach on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on **Women, Peace and Security**’, the EU has fostered action to fight sexual violence in third countries, in particular in the **DRC** where the issue has been put at the centre of EU support for the reconstruction of the State. In October 2009 the EU organised the first yearly exchange of information between representatives of the EU Member States on the UNSCR resolution; participants from civil society, the UN, NATO, the African Union, Liberia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Nepal were also included.

Within CSDP missions and operations, the human rights and gender dimension was particularly strengthened through the appointment of human rights advisers/gender experts in their teams and the adoption, in November 2009, of the Council document "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 in the context of training for the CSDP missions and operations - recommendations on the way forward" designated to improve the coherence and quality of pre-deployment and training for staff deployed in CSDP missions and operations. Awareness raising on gender-related issues and the fight against sexual violence are part of the priorities and training of the CSDP missions in Afghanistan, Palestine and the DRC.

The gender dimension has continued to be mainstreamed through EU assistance (i.e. in DDR and in Burundi) and a number of projects implemented by civil society. Analysis of women’s participation in elections, both as candidates and voters, is now systematic in EU EOM (i.e. Afghanistan).

Based on the positive results of the Feasibility Study completed in June 2009, efforts have continued to establish an International Centre for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities in Budapest with a view to further developing and institutionalizing the preventive approach when addressing the most extreme human rights violations.

#### 4. Climate change and security

Following the report in 2009 of the SG/HR and the European Commission which described climate change as a threat multiplier, in 2009 various Council working groups have discussed climate change and international security. The issue became an increasingly integral part of the political dialogue agenda with third countries including **USA, India, Japan, and China**, and international and regional organisations, such as UN, OSCE, ARF.

The outcome of the **Copenhagen Summit** underlined the importance of limiting future temperature rises to 2 degrees Celsius if major challenges to global environment, economy and security are to be avoided. Whilst the security implications of climate change are real and already being felt in vulnerable countries, emerging economies and developed countries including the EU are also at threat from a more significant rise. Adaptation to climate change is a challenge faced by all countries and additional funding should be mobilised in the short term to respond to urgent and identified needs for the most vulnerable developing countries in particular LDCs, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and African countries. This will increase capacity and resilience to deal with climate impacts from a 2 degree rise. In line with the commitment of the developed countries to provide developing countries (DCs) with additional resources approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010-2012, the December 2009 European Council pledged €2.4 billion fast-start funding annually from 2010 to 2012 for climate action in developing countries.

Regional scenarios providing analysis of the potential security implications of climate change have been elaborated by the EU for **South West Asia, South East Asia, Central America and Indian-Pacific Ocean Island States**. These include risks caused by regional warming, glacier melt, changing precipitation patterns, salt water intrusion and increased incidence and unpredictability of extreme weather events. In these areas vulnerabilities to these effects are exacerbated by rapid population growths, economic development and increasing resource and energy demands. Sudden shocks could precipitate multiple simultaneous crisis events, which without intervention could then proliferate and cascade, interfacing with political turmoil and existing armed conflicts. In the field of **Early Warning**, the security implications of climate change have been included in the criteria of security assessments within the framework of the update of the EU Watch list.



In Asia, the EU organized, and co-chaired, an inter-governmental **ARF** Seminar on the Security Implications of Climate Change in 2009 to raise awareness of possible negative consequences of climate change in South East and South Asia and to discuss possible ways of preventing and mitigating trends and factors of instability. The EU will organise a follow-up ARF seminar on climate change and international security in 2010.

In **Africa**, the EU strongly supports the efforts to organise a Dialogue Forum on the security implications of Climate Change in Africa with a view to launching a multilateral dialogue process with the participation of major international actors and representatives of the African continent including local communities and non-governmental organizations.

Given the vulnerability of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) to climate change the EU will, under the Global Climate Change Alliance funds, contribute to the efforts of **Mauritius** to design and implement climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. In April 2010 the EU and the **Maldives** signed a Memorandum of Understanding on an EUR 38 million Global Climate Change Alliance Grant, to be administered by the World Bank.

The EU will support the implementation of the Seychelles National Climate Change Strategy (SNCCS), formulated in 2009 with the aim of enhancing the sustainability of development and economic reforms and building resilience to the impacts of climate change on the economy and society at large. In doing so, the EU will also enhance coordination with the UNDP in that regard.

##### 5. Natural resources in conflict

The misgovernance of natural resource revenue and competition for access and control of natural resources can be a source of instability in many places around the world, providing both the opportunity for grievances to emerge and a source of finance for conflict. Therefore specific attention needs to be devoted to these issues from a conflict prevention perspective.

### *Illegal exploitation of natural resources*

The EU has mobilised the Instrument for Stability/Conflict Resources Facility (CFR) to offer third countries timely and targeted assistance directed at the natural resources sector and to collaborate with the United Nations and civil society with a view to ensuring coherence in addressing this issue around the world, in particular in fragile situations. The EU has notably funded projects for the development of a joint EU/UN policy framework, guidelines and training on Natural Resources Management and Conflicts and for mainstreaming natural resources management into UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations in the DRC, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

As prevention of illegal logging is extremely important in countries where natural resources have been used to fuel violent conflict the Union is committed to tackling illegal logging through the EU **FLEGT** (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) Action Plan. The second FLEGT VPA (Voluntary Partnership Agreement) was initialled with the Republic of Congo in 2009, after Ghana in 2008, to achieve effective legal reform and measures to enforce laws. Negotiations are also progressing in the Central African Republic and Liberia and planned in Côte d'Ivoire.

In 2009 the EU continued to actively participate in the **Kimberley Process** (KP) and took a number of initiatives to enhance the fight against conflict diamonds. In its capacity as Chair of the Monitoring Working Group, the EU played a key role in addressing non-compliance with KP requirements and reports of violence and human rights violations in the Marange diamond mining area of **Zimbabwe**. The EU brokered an agreement with Zimbabwe at the Plenary meeting in Swakopmund (Namibia) in November 2009, whereby Zimbabwe commits to undertaking ambitious actions to bring diamond mining in Marange into compliance with KP minimum requirements.

The EU also directly contributed to the monitoring of 'conflict diamonds' from **Côte d'Ivoire** in light of UNSC resolution 1893 (2009), and provided research based on satellite imagery and statistical analysis on the illicit trafficking of diamonds from Northern Côte d'Ivoire. The EU also participated in KP review visits to **Belarus, Liberia, Sierra Leone** and **Turkey** as an illustration of its commitment to the KP 'Peer review mechanism'.

In the course of two-year discussions the EU effectively contributed to a key KP Decision concerning cooperation on enforcement, which was eventually adopted at the Swakopmund Plenary. The Decision adds a new dimension to the KP's set of internationally agreed rules and standards as it provides for better coordination of national enforcement agencies in their fight against KP infringements.

The EU has effectively contributed to the implementation of UNSC resolutions providing for **sanctions against trade** in certain natural resources linked to regional peace and security. In addition to the sanctions against diamonds from **Côte d'Ivoire**, the EU implements restrictive measures against persons supporting illegal armed groups in the eastern part of the **DR Congo** through illicit trade in natural resources.

### *Water*

Water management is a potentially 'hot' conflict issue in **Central Asia** where the EU is implementing a number of programmes on water governance and National Water Policy dialogues, in particular in the framework of the **EU Water Initiative**, to improve water usage and promote regional cooperation. The EU should continue investing efforts to prevent still possible conflicts and ensure continuously improved water management in the region.

The EU is also involved in support to transboundary basin management in Africa, including the Nile Basin Initiative and the Horn of Africa initiative. The Africa-EU Partnership on water affairs and sanitation highlights the fact that joint benefits from shared water resources promote economic development and act as a catalyst for peace and security.

### *Energy security*

Over the reporting period, the EU continued to develop energy relations and specific dialogues with its key suppliers, transit countries and major consumer countries and promoted the diversification of sources, fuels and routes of supply.

The EU has continued to work to ensure predictable energy relations with **Russia** and **Ukraine** to prevent future supply disruptions. With Russia, the EU continues to work on developing an energy partnership based on the principles of transparency, fair competition, reciprocity and non-discrimination, as well as the principles of the Energy Charter Treaty. In the spirit of cooperation, a strengthened Early Warning Mechanism was endorsed at the EU - Russia summit in November 2009. With Ukraine, a joint EU-Ukraine conference on the modernisation of the Ukrainian gas transit system held in March 2009 promoted the reform of the Ukrainian gas sector and its modernisation. During 2009 the EU helped to facilitate an IFI-backed financial package to address Ukraine's needs as regards paying for and storing gas.

Regional energy cooperation continues to be promoted within the Baku initiative, the Black Sea Synergy, the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean, the Energy Community Treaty, as well as with the Gulf Cooperation Council. Progress was made to open membership of the Energy Community to Turkey and Ukraine, while the Republic of Moldova became a full member as of 1 May 2010. In addition, in the context of the Southern Corridor initiative to bring gas from the Caspian and Middle East, the EU has over the reporting period continued to develop its energy relations with **Azerbaijan** and the **Central Asian** countries, particularly in order to develop a Trans-Caspian gas link. Preparations for the implementation of the Nabucco gas pipeline continued and resulted in the signature of an intergovernmental agreement in July 2009.

#### **IV. Capacity building of EU actors**

During the reporting period **EU early warning** activities were further enhanced. The geographical Watch List based on all source information was updated once per Presidency. The **EU Joint Situation Centre** alongside the EU Military Staff, in close cooperation with other structures in the Council Secretariat and the European Commission, have produced a great number of reports and assessments to facilitate the decision-making processes. CSDP Missions and European Union/Commission delegations in third countries have actively contributed to the risk and threat assessments.

EU institutions have around 15 different "**rapid alert systems**" ranging from full 24/7 capabilities to mere mail boxes. Given that hardly any crisis is limited to a single sector, there is scope to further improve overall organisational efficiency in the chain of rapid alert systems and trigger reactions throughout the EU institutions. Based on the Haitian natural disaster a lessons learned process in the relevant Council bodies should be started. Under the so called EU Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements (EU-CCA) continuous efforts have been made to link rapid alert systems operated by EU institutions and agencies. One of the results of this work has been the establishment of the ARGUS system which links together the Commission's sector-based rapid alert systems.

With a view to enhancing cooperation and developing skills in the field of open source intelligence, the informal "**Budapest Club**" continued its activities and held meetings in Budapest and Rome last June and October respectively. A new meeting combined with a two-day training – taking also account of the future EEAS - is scheduled in Brussels in June 2010.

A set of outreach projects have already been launched with the IfS crisis preparedness component to support the development of Early Warning instruments in both the African Union and the League of Arab States.

To enhance the EU's comprehensive and coherent approach, work has continued on the elaboration of an **Action Plan on the Security and Development Nexus** and an **Implementation Plan on Situations of Fragility**. Given that conclusions and recommendations that emerged during the preparatory work largely addressed the same issues it has been decided to prepare a single EU Action Plan covering both fragility and security and development. The document will be finalised once the decision on the scope of the European External Action Service will has been clarified.

The European Commission's support to conflict prevention (including crisis resolution) and peace building (including demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration) is currently being evaluated. The preliminary study, consisting of a scoping and mapping of fund disbursements in 2001-2008, was finalised in July 2009. The final evaluation is due in 2011. The results of the evaluation process will be built into the review process on the Gothenburg Programme to be completed in the first semester 2011.

To address the challenges comprehensively and further enhance civilian capability planning and development in the context of the CSDP missions during 2009 a document was prepared on "Civilian Capability Planning and Development - Guiding Lines for the Second Semester 2009". Through the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 the EU makes further efforts to address the shortfalls in preparing, deploying and conducting CSDP civilian missions.

In the field of civilian rapid deployment capability the **Civilian Response Team (CRT)** concept was revised. The Concept provides for doubling of the CRT pool with a target of up to 200 experts, as well as more efficient procedures for decision and deployment.

Considerable progress was made in the field of training experts for civilian CSDP missions. The system of pre-deployment training was further enhanced through building on experience acquired within the Project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management. The 2009 Annual Action Programme of the Crisis Preparedness component of the Instrument for Stability (Peace-building Partnership) also included an element of **training for civilian stabilisation missions** in the field of police and rule of law, following training standards compatible with UN, World Bank and OSCE requirements. The **European Security and Defence College (ESDC)** also organised courses covering topics such as CSDP mission planning, civil-military co-ordination, capability development, peace building, SSR, international humanitarian law and the law of armed conflicts. In addition, progress was made on training in the domain of gender and security.

With regard to **military capabilities**, the Headline Goal 2010 Force Catalogue was updated. Further reflections on fostering European capabilities beyond the 2010 horizon, including the need to increase synergy between the civilian and military EU capability development processes were welcomed. In the context of **EU Battlegroups**, last October Member States confirmed commitments until the end of 2011. Other achievements related to the identification of Multinational Forces and Headquarters potentially available for EU-led military operations.

The European Commission expanded its **training programme** in areas relevant to crisis response and peace building. These new training modules covered areas such as human rights and democratisation, gender, peace and security, mediation and dialogue facilitation, Security Sector

Reform (SSR), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), conflict prevention, and post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessments (PCNA/PDNA). In April 2010 the second induction training sessions on IfS modus operandi were held for the **Regional Crisis Response Planning Officers** and Project Managers assigned to EU Delegations.

The implementation of the two-year cycle for "Sharing of best practices on building up national preventive capabilities" continued within the framework of the CIVCOM in November 2009 and May 2010.

Within the two-year programme of "Conflict Prevention in Practice" arranged by the Folke Bernadotte Academy and Madariaga European Foundation in close cooperation with Member States, EU institutions and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLLO), a workshop and a training session focussing on dialogue and mediation took place in November and June 2009 respectively. After completion of the programme a new initiative for 2010-2011 was launched to raise awareness of challenges related to state-building, natural resources and prevention of genocide as well as to build synergies and coherence in cooperation with major international actors including the UN, regional organisations such as the AU, the OSCE and partners including the USA and Canada.

## **V. Cooperation with other actors**

Specific attention was devoted to enhancing cooperation with the **United Nations**. Co-operation on crisis management has been particularly successful in the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic. Lessons identified from the transition from EUFOR Chad/CAR to MINURCAT, in particular with regard to the protection of civilians, as well as from the deployment of EULEX Kosovo after the reconfiguration of UNMIK, is further consolidating the cooperation. The EU continued to support the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the civilian CSDP mission worked closely together with the UN on police reform in Afghanistan. The EU and UN work closely together in SSR, as for example in the DRC (MONUC).

The EU-UN Steering Committee on crisis management which held its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in March 2010 and the “desk-to-desk” dialogue on conflict prevention which held its 9<sup>th</sup> session in April 2010 constitute a proper framework for collaboration.

The EU has been an active player in discussions on the protection of civilian (PoC) at the level of the UN Security Council and a driving force in the adoption of UNSCR 1894(2009) on PoC in armed conflict. The EU is also taking on board best practice identified by the UN and other relevant organizations concerning PoC mandates for its CSDP Missions.

At the level of the UN the EU is also actively engaged in ensuring progress in the area of women, peace and security and in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, which celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010.

The EU continued to engage actively in the work of the **Peace-building Commission (PBC)**, both on thematic work, and country-specific work relating to Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic. The EU has engaged actively in the ongoing Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture which is expected to last until the summer of 2010.

UN efforts related to the implementation of the **Responsibility to Protect (R2P)** concept were substantially supported. The EU continued to pay specific attention to discussions following the UNSG report on the implementation of R2P and the General Assembly debate on resolution 63/308 reaffirming the concept on a global level. In the EU internally, discussions continued on how to operationalise the concept and the role of the EU itself as an international actor.

The EU continued to actively participate in the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (**INCAF**) under the OECD DAC and provided funding for the INCAF workstreams on the International Dialogue on Peace Building and State Building and on monitoring progress in the implementation of the Principles for Engagement in Fragile Situations.



Throughout the reporting period, the EU continued to support the **OSCE** efforts to enhance security through all three of its dimensions and engaged substantively in the dialogue on the future of European security. Particular attention was devoted to conflict prevention and conflict resolution through cooperation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the confidence and democracy building work of the OSCE Field Missions. Cooperation with the OSCE was developed further in the areas of border management and security and drug control, in particular in the framework of the meeting of the **Central Asia** Border Security Initiative in Tashkent in October 2009. Cooperation also continued in the context of the crisis in **Georgia**.

The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2007 between the EU and the **Council of Europe** (CoE) continued. The coordination meetings allowed for enhanced cooperation in the monitoring of the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plans and the preparation of the Progress Reports. The CoE was accepted as a permanent participant in two of the multilateral platforms of the EU Eastern Partnership. Work progressed toward the creation of a specific financial facility aimed at disseminating the best practice of the CoE acquired in some countries.

The EU and **NATO** continued to further develop their strategic partnership in crisis management. The EU agreed on a series of concrete measures to improve EU-NATO cooperation, which has been communicated to NATO. There is also a clear value in the informal gatherings between the members of the PSC, the non-EU members of NATO and other countries that are candidates for accession to the EU. In 2009, EU-NATO cooperation in the context of the "Berlin Plus" arrangements for the CSDP operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina continued to work smoothly and efficiently.

In the **Western Balkans**, the regionally-owned **Regional Cooperation Council**, the successor to the **Stability Pact**, is moving from a transitional to a more target-oriented operational phase, which will include enhanced regional cooperation in a number of sectoral activities, including security.

The **African Union** remained a key partner for the European Union, notably in the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and its 8 partnerships. The political dialogue on crucial crisis management challenges (Somalia, Sudan) and electoral and governance crises (Mauritania, Guinea, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Comoros) led the agenda. Political dialogue further intensified through the joint EU-AU PSC to PSC meeting in October 2009 and the Ministerial Troika held in April 2010. Alongside important capacity building measures, progress was made in supporting the Early Warning capacities of the AU and the Regional Economic Communities, training and exercise arrangements and the AU mediation initiatives.

Efforts to make the **African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)** operational and preparations of support packages for the African Training Centres are making good progress. Joint initiatives on Counter-terrorism, Disarmament and non-proliferation, Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Reconstruction were launched and the Africa Stand-by Force (ASF) is scheduled to be operational by June 2010. Mention should be made of the importance of close cooperation through the UN-AU-EU dialogue for the strengthening of African capabilities aimed at increasing regional ownership for conflict prevention and resolution and towards predictable and sustainable funding of AU-led peace-support operations following the Prodi Panel report.

The 17<sup>th</sup> EU-**ECOWAS** Troika meeting held in November 2009 produced important results on key thematic issues including security and development, peace and security architecture, gender and climate change, the fight against organized crime and country situations (Niger, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire). The EU continued to provide support to the reinforcement of the ECOWAS executive secretariat for conflict prevention, ECOWAS mediation activities and the implementation of programmes to fight the proliferation of small arms. This Troika meeting was particularly useful and important, reflecting increasingly close cooperation with ECOWAS in the run-up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Africa Summit. Cooperation with ECOWAS in the fight against drugs also continued to develop with an EU- ECOWAS Drug Troika meeting in June 2009.

The EU and the US have continued their cooperation in the field of crisis management and conflict prevention under the remit of the work plan "Technical Dialogue and Increased Cooperation in Crisis Management and Conflict Prevention" agreed in March 2008. The US continues its sizeable contribution to EULEX KOSOVO. Horizontal crisis management cooperation on issues such as lessons learned and training is ongoing, and is taken forward with the Department of State, including the US Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilisation, and other relevant branches of the US government.

In the framework of the 2008 Work Programme for Further Cooperation in Military and Civilian Crisis Management **Canada** continues to be a valued partner in a number of CSDP missions (EULEX KOSOVO, EUPOL COPPS and EUPOL AFGHANISTAN). Horizontal cooperation covers areas including exercises and training. Canada and the EU are committed to cooperating more closely on consular protection issues. Cooperation is pursued through staff level contacts, principally with Canada's Stabilization and Reconstruction Team (START).

In the framework of their political dialogue, the EU and the **Russian Federation** have frequently discussed countries and regions facing the risk of conflict. In late 2009 exploratory talks were held with a view to resuming negotiations on a framework agreement on Russian participation in EU crisis management operations. The conflict in Georgia was discussed with Russia at all levels as part of the regular political dialogue. The EU also raised with Russia the protracted conflicts in the Republic of Moldova (Transnistria) and in Armenia/Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh), as well as Afghanistan/Pakistan, the Middle East and non-proliferation, particularly in the context of Iran and the fight against terrorism.

Under the Crisis Preparedness component of the Instrument for Stability (Peace-building Partnership), the **dialogue with civil society organisations** on peace-building issues was further enhanced during the reporting period. Several consultation meetings held under the framework of the Partnership addressed the issues of Bosnia Herzegovina, Nagorno Karabakh and Somalia. A Stocktaking and Scoping Study on the Peace-building Partnership was carried out in 2009. Based on its recommendations the Partnership will focus on thematic or transversal issues across a range of geographical contexts.

European civil society was involved in the exercise of **capacity building**, through its increased participation in actions organized by regional organisations with EU support, such as the ECOWAS network of research centres. The creation of the Forum of civil society organisations of West Africa is also a promising step towards increased capacity and participation of civil society players in the process of regional integration, including security and conflict prevention aspects.