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Europe: The refugee and migration crisis*The park Maximilien in Brussels turned recently into an improvised refugee camp. Credit: lesoir.be*

The EU has been working over the past six months to respond to the challenge posed by the high flow of refugees and migrants overwhelming its **'front line' member states**, including Greece, Italy and Hungary. After an emergency Ministerial was held in April to respond to the drowning of almost 800 people trying to reach Europe off the coast of Libya, the European Commission presented the European **Agenda on Migration** in May. The Commission has since been negotiating implementation packages with the EU Member States and coping with the changing dynamics of the crisis, including an increase in those fleeing war and human rights abuses travelling through the Western Balkans from the Middle East and Central Asia.

Visiting Brussels at the end of May, the **UN Secretary-General** voiced his support for the first implementation package that was announced during his visit as a 'good first step,' as it included opening legal avenues for migration and a proposal for the emergency relocation of asylum seekers from the overburdened front line states to those member states with capacity to absorb asylum seekers, as well as a proposal on resettlement. **UNHCR** and **UN Special Envoy for Migration, Peter Sutherland**, have also consistently called for the adoption of a strong European response to react quickly to the crisis. The emergency relocation proposal, which initially covered 40,000 asylum seekers and was increased to a total of 160,000, was the subject of debate among EU member states. The Commission has been moving ahead with the relocation of the asylum seekers, aided by the deployment of EU migration management support teams in 'hotspots' in the frontline states, and the first relo-

cation process was undertaken on 9 October. Despite sometimes divisive views, one aspect all EU member states have agreed on is the need to tackle the refugee and migration crisis at its source. This includes full support for the **UN-led efforts in Libya and Syria**. At the European Council meeting on 23 September, Heads of State and Government agreed on significant financial assistance, including 1 billion Euros for UN humanitarian agencies, to improve conditions in 'transit' countries and keep the refugees from moving out of desperation to Europe from countries such as **Lebanon or Jordan**. There will also be more aid for **Turkey** and the **Western Balkans** directly aimed at stopping migration. At the occasion of the high-level conference on the **Western Balkans route** on 8 October, the EU's Foreign, Home and Justice Ministers and their counterparts from the Western Balkans, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the non-EU Schengen states agreed to strengthen cooperation on migration. Previously, the EU had also pledged 1.8 billion Euros for African countries to address the root causes of migration. The EU is furthermore organizing a **Summit in Valletta** on 11-12 November with African countries.

The **EUNAVFOR MED mission**, that deploys Member State naval assets to fight smuggler networks was also

launched by consensus soon after the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration. This mission, that has been renamed **Sophia** during its second phase of operation in honour of a girl born on a rescue ship in September, entered into phase 2 (first step) in international waters on 7 October. During phase 1, the mission has undertaken surveillance and intelligence activities and is credited with directly saving the lives of 1,500 people in the Central Mediterranean. In the second phase, the operation will undertake efforts to identify, capture and dispose of vessels used by migrant smugglers or traffickers in international waters. Operation Sophia would need a Security Council resolution and/or consent from a Libyan government of national accord before it could enter its third phase of going into Libyan territorial waters to dismantle smuggler's assets.

Beyond these immediate responses, EU discussions are focused on legislation and institutions to address the increasing flow of refugees and migrants to Europe. Further aims of the Commission include a revision of the **Dublin regulation**, which requires asylum seekers to be processed in the European country first reached, to avoid resorting to emergency relocation and establish a permanent relocation mechanism. To facilitate returns/readmissions, the European Commission has also pledged to strengthen its border agency **Frontex**, and is in the process of adopting a list of safe countries of origin.



European Union naval operation against human smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED). Credit : EEAS



Policy developments: building the UN-EU partnership in peace operations



President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, presented EU priorities in support of UN peacekeeping at the 'Leaders Summit on Peacekeeping' on 28 September in New York. Credit: Oliver Ulich

At the invitation of EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini and the Luxembourg Presidency, **Under-Secretary-General Ladsous**, participated at an **informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers** on 2-3 September in Luxembourg. Mr. Ladsous's exchange with Ministers mainly focused on rapid deployment options for UN peace operations, including the operationalization of the EU Battlegroup concept. USG Ladsous also exchanged views with Ministers and with the EEAS and Political and Security Committee (in Brussels on 4 September) on these matters and a range of country files, including cooperation between CSDP operations and UN operations in Mali, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This latest round of discussions on UN-EU partnership followed the European Council meeting on security and defence last June, when partnership with the United Nations was emphasized by EU Heads of State and Government. Furthermore, EU Foreign Ministers at the May Foreign Affairs Council meeting described the relationship with the UN on crisis management as 'unique and long standing' and called for it to be further strengthened. The growing appreciation of the UN-EU partnership was fittingly articulated by **European Council (EC) President Donald Tusk**, who participated at the **Leaders Summit on peace-keeping** co-chaired by US President Barack Obama and the UN Secretary-General on 28 September in New York. EC President Tusk referenced the priorities set out in the new 'UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management – 2015-2018.'

While much has been achieved at the policy and at the operational level, given the many crises faced, a call for enhanced partnership was outlined by the UN Secretary-General in his September report on the future of UN peace operations, which builds on the recommendations of the **High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations report**. The UN Secretary-General's report includes a heading on 'global-regional partnerships', with particular reference to the need for rapid response, early warning and conflict analysis.

Updates from NATO

NATO Defence Ministers met in Brussels on 24 and 25 June to take key decisions on strengthening the Alliance's collective defence. Chief among those was the decision to increase the strength and capability of the NATO Response Force (NRF): the NRF will now consist of up to 40,000 personnel – a major increase from the previous level of 13,000. Ministers also took measures to speed up political and military decision-making to allow more rapid troop deployment, and approved a new concept for advance planning. NATO will set up six small headquarters in Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania, each with around 40 personnel. Ministers also discussed adaptation of NATO's nuclear policy.

Preparations have begun for the **NATO Warsaw Summit**, which will take place on 8-9 July 2016. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has explained that the Summit comes at a crucial time for the Alliance, as the tectonic plates of Euro-Atlantic security have shifted both in the East and the South. In response to the **Ukraine crisis**, NATO has reinforced its collective defence. As a part of this renewed focus on territorial defence, NATO has also enhanced its rapid response capabilities, through a so-called 'Readiness Action Plan.' While the NATO focus is very much on its eastern and southern flanks, NATO's 'Resolute Support' mission in **Afghanistan** remains its largest operation and there is a strong commitment to its success. Meeting on 11-13 September, NATO Chiefs of Defence stressed the importance of a successful conditions-based transition from 'Resolute Support' to a civilian led presence.

The strategic question of NATO's future posture and long-term military strategy will no doubt take center-stage in Warsaw. In this regard, the question of declining defence budgets and '**smarter defence**' will come under scrutiny. **Hybrid warfare** will also likely be high on the agenda. Partnerships and defense sector capacity building will feature, including NATO's broad range of instruments through which it can support its partners' ability to better provide for their own security. In this context, NATO has developed dedicated defence capacity building packages for **Moldova, Georgia, Jordan and Iraq**.

In terms of ongoing partnership with the UN, the NATO Secretary General recommitted support for the UN at the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping on 28 September in New York.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announcing the dates of the upcoming Warsaw Summit.
Credit: NATO

Brief from the European Parliament

Over the last months, the **European Parliament's foreign affairs committee (AFET)** as well as its sub-committee on security and defence (SEDE) have been active on peace and security issues. MEPs monitored as chief observer the elections in **Haiti** in July and in **Sri Lanka** in August, and are expected to monitor elections in **Guinea** and **Burkina Faso** in October 2015. In early September, MEPs and members of national Parliaments discussed the future of **CSDP/CFSP**, and called for a strengthening of both civilian CSDP missions and civilian instruments to address the root causes of conflict. On that occasion the parliamentarians also spoke out for more cooperation in defence and security between the EU and UN as well as between the EU and NATO and other regional organisations. In June the AFET committee discussed the future role of the EU within the UN with **João Vale de Almeida**, the newly appointed Head of the EU Delegation to the UN in New York. Currently the AFET committee is working on a **report "on the role of the EU within the UN – how to better achieve EU foreign policy goals."** The report, which pushes for a stronger voice of the EU within the United Nations, is expected to be voted on in the plenary in November.

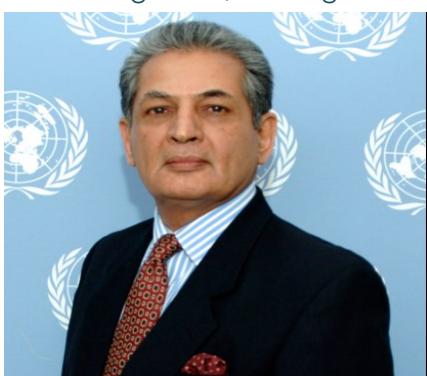
Political updates

After years of intensive diplomacy, on 14 July the five **Security Council members plus Germany (P5+1) and Iran** agreed on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (**JCPOA**) under the chairpersonship of HR/VP Mogherini in Vienna. The United Nations Security Council endorsed the JCPOA by unanimously adopting a resolution on 20 July establishing a monitoring system for Iran's nuclear program and considering the "eventual removal" of all nuclear-related sanctions against the country. Further work will now be taken forward through a high-level dialogue led by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American Affairs, Mr. Majid Takht Ravanchi, and Ms. Helga Schmid, Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service (pictured left). The first dialogue is foreseen to take place before the end of the year to be followed by a ministerial meeting at a later stage in 2016.



Helga Schmid, Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service

On 25 August HR/VP Mogherini hosted a meeting in Brussels of the **high level dialogue for normalisation of relations between Belgrade and**



SRSG Farid Zarif, Head of UNMIK

Pristina with Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić and Isa Mustafa to finalise implementation arrangements of four key agreements: on energy, telecoms, establishment of the Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities as well as the Freedom of Movement/Mitrovica Bridge. On the occasion, HR/VP Mogherini congratulated the leaders for marking a 'turning point' in taking forward the Dialogue agenda.

In his briefing to the Security Council, **Farid Zarif, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo** (pictured left), urged Pristina and Belgrade to build on the historic momentum towards a negotiated political settlement.

The **Middle East Peace Process** remains high on the EU's agenda, and proposals for an international support group and/or enlarged Quartet have been the subject of much discussion, including at the informal Foreign Affairs Council in early September. A growing number of EU member states see a role for an enlarged Quartet. On the trade front, HR/VP Mogherini (pictured right) has asked the Commission's Trade Directorate to publish by the end of the year the EU-wide labeling guidelines for products emanating from the settlements.



The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany met in the 'Normandy Format' in Paris on 2 October. Credit: Le Monde



Federica MOGHERINI, EU HR for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, at the Informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

On 14 September the EU legally renewed its sanctions on **Russia**. The EU said an 'assessment of the situation did not justify a change' following speculation that the EU would allow the sanction to expire due to the recent show of respect by both sides for a renewed ceasefire that came into effect on 1 September. The six-month extension includes asset freezes and travel bans against 149 people and 37 entities. The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany met in the 'Normandy Format' in Paris on 2 October to discuss

the disagreements surrounding local elections and autonomy for the rebel-held territories in **Ukraine's** east. President Holland indicated that for local elections to take place under the conditions that 'respect Minsk,' the timetable for the implementation of the second Minsk accord signed last February would need to be shifted beyond 31 December 2015. The EU's Political and Security Committee visited Ukraine on 16-18 September to assess the work of the EU Advisory Mission for civilian security sector reform and met with EU and Ukrainian officials.

EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management

The biannual UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management was held on **13 July**, with USG Ladsous leading the UN delegation that came to Brussels. **Mali, the Central African Republic and Women, Peace and Security** were the main topics of discussion this time around, with discussions on Mali focused mainly on the implementation of the 20 June Agreement and on the main provisions of Security Council resolution 2227 (2015).

Regarding the **Central African Republic** all eyes were on the upcoming elections: the EU will deploy observers and provide substantial funding, but a lot of the financing and organisation for the elections had yet to be arranged. All agreed that the EU Monitoring and Advisory Mission (EUMAM) currently supporting the CAR armed forces (FACA) has a critical role to play in the area of defence sector reform and development.

Over lunch, participants discussed possible solutions to the threat posed by **Boko Haram** in central Africa, and the EU side briefed on developments regarding the establishment of the Special Court in **Kosovo**.

The EU also informed UN colleagues on the preparations for the **Valletta summit on migration** with a range of African countries scheduled for 11/12 November. With respect to the work under Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security the EU noted its intention to appoint an **EEAS Gender Advisor**; former Managing Director for Multilateral Affairs Mara Marinaki has since been named to that post. Under the same topic USG Ladsous informed the EU about the **DPKO/DFS Forward Looking Gender Strategy** and on the increased number of women at the senior leadership level in peacekeeping operations (25 per cent of Heads of Mission). USG Ladsous also briefed the EU on the main points of the **UN Peace Operations Review**, while the EU side shed light on the upcoming "EU global strategy for foreign policy and security", the preparation of an EU security sector reform concept, and the so-called "train & equip initiative".

This was also the final Steering Committee with **Mr. Alessandro Mariani** at the helm of CMPD's Partnerships division. We thank Alessandro for the good cooperation over the last two years and warmly welcome his successor, **Ms. Clara Ganslandt**, to the CMPD partnerships post. The next meeting of the Steering Committee is to be held in New York towards the end of the year.



Credit: UNLOPS

High-level visits

Mr. Hervé Ladsous, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations

USG Herve Ladsous held a range of meeting in Brussels on 18 May, including with EEAS Deputy Secretary General Maciej Popowski and the Director General of the EU Military Staff, General Wolfgang Wosolsobe. The focus of discussions was mainly related to Mali and next steps regarding the implementation of the Algiers Agreement. The depth and breadth of UN-EU cooperation, as exemplified by cooperation in the Central African Republic between EUFOR CAR (and subsequently EUMAM) and MINUSCA was a common theme throughout the meetings. While in Brussels, Mr. Ladsous also exchanged views with a number of EU defense ministers. USG Ladsous returned to Brussels on 4 September to brief the Political and Security Committee (see article on pg. 3).

Ms. Sigrid Kaag, UN Special Coordinator for the Lebanon

UN Special Coordinator for the Lebanon, Sigrid Kaag, held a range of meetings with senior EU officials in Brussels on 14-15 September. Discussions zoned in on peace and security matters, stability and governance and humanitarian needs in the Lebanon. Ms. Kaag discussed both national and regional priorities with European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, who oversees the EU's programmatic priorities for the Lebanon. With Christos Stylianides, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, discussions focused on the humanitarian and social challenges, particularly for the large refugee community. Other meetings included an exchange with the EU's Political and Security Committee and a meeting with the newly appointed EEAS Managing Director for North Africa and the Middle East, Nick Westcott. Ms. Kaag also met with a member of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries.

Mr. Mongi Hamdi, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali

SRSG Hamdi held a range of high level meetings in Brussels on 14-16 July. SRSG Hamdi discussed the implementation of the Algiers peace agreement with HR/VP Mogherini and also with Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders. In an exchange with the EU's Political and Security Committee, SRSG Hamdi expressly thanked EU member states for their support to MINUSMA and especially the All Sources Information Fusion Unit (ASIFU), while also outlining some of the key ongoing capability gaps faced by the UN Mission. SRSG Hamdi discussed the work of the EU military and police training missions with the leadership of the EU Military Staff, CMPD and CPCC. SRSG Hamdi also consulted with the European Commission on both the need for a quick peace dividend in the North of Mali and key programmatic priorities.

Ms. Diane Corner, UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (D/SRSG) for the Central African Republic. D/SRSG Corner visited Brussels on 11 June in order to provide an overview of the DDR plan being developed by the interim government with support from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the international community. The iterative DDR plan, which is divided into two phases, is based on the DDR agreement hammered out at the Bangui Forum. In her meetings with EU officials and a range of EU member state representatives, Ms. Corner stressed the importance of linking DDR to community based integration and community violence reduction programmes. Following her stay in Brussels, D/SRSG Corner travelled to a number of European capitals to discuss the DDR plan, including financing needs.

UN Office for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership (OPSP)

The UN Office for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnership (OPSP) was established in 2014 and is helping to identify gaps in achieving mandates, recommending ways to enhance the safety, security and welfare of uniformed personnel, and incorporating lessons learned. General Luiz Guilherme Oaul Cruz, the head of OPSP together with a delegation of experts visited Brussels for meetings with the EU and NATO on 11 June. General Cruz discussed quality control issues with the Director General of the EU Military Staff, General Wolfgang Wosolsobe and with the Chair of the EU Military Committee, General Patrick De Rousiers. The OPSP delegation met with EU police experts in CPCC. General Cruz also held a range of meetings with NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide

On 25-26 June Mr. Adama Dieng, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide visited Brussels and met with a range of interlocutors, including Political and Security Committee Ambassadors, EEAS Africa Managing Director Nicholas Westcott, and high level officials in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Special Adviser Dieng briefed on his visit to Burundi and underlined the risk of further violence in the country, and emphasized the importance of accountability in South Sudan, including through release of the African Union Commission of Inquiry report. Mr. Dieng also deplored the indiscriminate attacks again civilians in Syria, including through the use of barrel bombs.

Great Lakes international contact group meeting

Mr. Martin Kobler, SRSG and Head of MONUSCO, and Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region were in Brussels on 18 June to take part in a meeting of the International Contact Group on the Great Lakes region. Mr. Edmond Mulet, DPKO ASG for Operations, also took part in that meeting and held a range of meetings with relevant EU officials. The three officials also met with the Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders (pictured right).



Credit: UNLOPS

Ms. Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, Sahel Special Envoy

On 11 September, the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union hosted Special Envoy Hiroute Guebre Sellassie (pictured right) as the key note speaker at a conference organized with the EU Institute for Security Studies entitled 'Building security in the Sahel: European, regional and local approaches' alongside Helga Schmid, the Political Director of the European External Action Service. Ms. Sellassie also participated in a panel with Pierre Buyoya, AU High Representative for the Sahel, and Michel Reveyrand de Menthon, EU Special



Credit: UNLOPS

Representative for the Sahel. While in Brussels Special Envoy Sellassie met Mr. Neven Mimica, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

The EU Military Committee (EUMC) at work

The EU Military Committee is a key decision making body in the area of EU security and defence. The EUMC successfully agreed on the basic military documents that subsequently enabled the launch on 22 June of the EU Naval Force in the Mediterranean (**EUNAVFOR MED**) against smugglers and traffickers of human beings. More recently the committee has also advised on transferring this operation into its second phase (step 1) to conduct boarding, search, seizure and diversion on the high seas of vessels suspected of being used for human smuggling or trafficking, within international law.



In regard to the development of capabilities the Committee's efforts are currently focused on the management of capability shortfalls at the European level which constitutes a crucial pillar of the **EU Capability Development Plan** overseen by the European Defence Agency. The EUMC has also continued to work on the development of concepts, including the "EU support to Regional Organizations" that is currently in the research and study phase, the "EU Concept for Force Generation" and the "EU Framework Nation Concept".

Addressing the issue of capacity building, the EUMC provided key military advice in developing and finalizing the EU Joint Communication on capacity-building in support of security and development, finalized on 28 April 2015. The Committee, which has been chaired over the last three years by the experienced General Patrick De Rousiers (France), will from 6 November 2015 be chaired by General Mikhail Kostarakos (Greece).

In pictures: sample of UNLOPS representational activities



Credit: UNLOPS

Outreach to European capitals

As part of the process of enhancing UN-EU partnership on peace and security, the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security (UNLOPS) is making a concerted effort to reach out to European capitals. In this context on 8 September, Rory Keane participated in a consultation in Berlin on the new German white paper on defense, which was organized by the German Ministry of Defense and GIZ. Mr. Keane held a range of meetings with Foreign and Defence Ministry officials in Berlin to discuss cooperation between CSDP and UN peace operations. Mr. Keane also partook in a consultation on the Irish defence white paper in May, which was subsequently launched in September and includes strong reference to partnership with the UN, especially in the area of peacekeeping. Meetings with senior Irish officials indicated strong support for UN-EU partnership. A visit to the Hungarian defence ministry in June provided an opportunity to visit the impressive Hungarian peacekeeping training center and to discuss Hungarian UN priorities with defence and foreign affairs officials. A trip to meet with Austrian officials in Vienna is planned for the autumn.

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Credit: UNLOPS

Annick Hiensch, UNLOPS, accompanied the **Secretary-General's visit to Oslo** with Mr. Miroslav Jenca, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, 7 July 2015.

NATO Catalyst for Change course:
Christian Eder (pictured right), UNLOPS, gave a presentation on UN peacekeeping capabilities



Credit: UNLOPS

UNLOPS curated **EYD 2015 Twitter and Facebook** accounts during the week of the UN Peacekeepers day. 2015 is the **European Year for Development (EYD)**.



Goodbye and thank you to **Bart Martini** (pictured left) who ended his 3 years contract with UNLOPS. **Welcome to : Kamiel Mesie** (pictured center), Associate Liaison Officer, who joined UNLOPS on 5/10 and **AnniKa Kohnert** (pictured right), Carlo Schmid Fellow, who joined UNLOPS on 1/9.



Credit: UNLOPS