

**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**European External Action Service**  
**Security Policy Division**

**ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON**  
**COUNTER-TERRORISM & TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**  
**KUALA LUMPUR, 29-31 MAY 2011**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank the Governments of Japan and Malaysia for co-hosting this meeting in Kuala Lumpur and to congratulate them for the outstanding organisational arrangements.

It is both a pleasure and an honour to be here today and to have the opportunity of addressing such a distinguished audience on behalf of the European Union.

The Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, has for the first time defined common overarching objectives for the external action of the EU, among which preventing conflicts, building peace and promoting international security, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.

The EU pursues these objectives –jointly with our Member States– using all the external policies and instruments we have at our disposal such as:

- through regular political and security dialogues with third countries and international organisations,
- establishing partnership and cooperation agreements (PCAs), which include specific security cooperation clauses,
- providing technical and financial assistance as well as capacity building support,
- adopting when necessary restrictive measures,
- deploying civilian and military missions in response to crises,
- promoting relevant UN and other international conventions,
- or by participating in international and multilateral security fora (such as this one).

The EU's main external security threats were already identified in the European Security Strategy (ESS), adopted in 2003, and these included terrorism, the proliferation of WMD, regional conflicts, trans-regional organised crime and illicit trafficking.

The 2008 Report on the implementation of the ESS added new, emerging security threats such as piracy, energy security, climate change and cyber-security, while acknowledging the security and development nexus.

Given the global, trans-regional nature of today's security threats, Europe's security is closely interlinked to the security of our partners, including –quite prominently- in the South and South East Asian sub-continent.

There is unfortunately no time in this short address to properly update you on the many actions and initiatives that the EU has undertaken to counter all the above-mentioned threats. I would therefore only highlight some of them in the specific areas of counter-terrorism, CBRN risk mitigation, and the fight against piracy.

### **Counter-terrorism**

- The EU is fully committed to prevent and fight against terrorism globally while protecting human rights. The EU Counter-Terrorism (CT) Strategy adopted in December 2005 and the updated Terrorism Action Plan provide the strategic framework for the development of the EU's counter-terrorism policy and actions internally and externally. The threat from terrorism remains significant and terrorism is a constantly evolving phenomenon.
- The fundamental approach of the EU's overall CT work is the respect for the rule of law, fundamental rights and freedoms as well as the promotion of a preventive and criminal justice approach. The EU action promote law enforcement and judicial cooperation, addresses the conditions conducive to terrorism, terrorist financing, terrorist travel and radicalisation and recruitment.
- Deepening the international consensus and enhancing international efforts to combat terrorism remains a key objective for the EU. The EU fully supports the UN's key role in the prevention and fight against terrorism and promotes compliance with recognized international standards. The EU also welcomes the establishment of the Global CT Forum which will also foster the multilateral CT cooperation and will specially address capacity building measures in South East Asia.
- In its external action the EU promotes confidence building through regular political dialogues on CT and also provides assistance to third countries in their efforts to counter-terrorism, mostly via capacity building measures under the Stability Instrument.

- Pakistan, Afghanistan, South East Asia and other regions remain a key priority high on the EU counter-terrorism agenda. The EU has developed a CT political dialogue with several Asian countries and hopes to soon establish such regular dialogues also with Indonesia and the ASEAN. Under the IfS, the EU already supports capacity building actions in Pakistan (short-term IfS – € 15 million) and Afghanistan especially on strengthening law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation. Future IfS support will continue these activities and will extend to South East Asia.

### **CBRN Risk Mitigation**

- CBRN risks, would they be of accidental, natural or intentional origin, represent a major security threat as well as a threat to public health.
- Promoting a culture of CBRN safety and security as well as a comprehensive approach to CBRN risk mitigation, from prevention to consequence management, by strengthening the institutional capacity of our partner countries to deal with CBRN risks are some of the objectives of the CBRN Centres of Excellence that the EU is helping to establish in five regions of the world, including South East Asia, with an estimated total financial allocation of nearly € 95 million during the 2009-2013 period.
- These CoEs are meant to become a platform for international coordination of projects in CBRN, nuclear safety, terrorism, emergency planning, etc., hence contributing to the ARF Hanoi Plan of Action. Two such projects are already under implementation in the South East Asia region, one on biological safety and security (currently involving Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, but likely to soon expand to other countries in the region); an another one on nuclear forensics, aiming at building local capacities to detect and an give an appropriate response to cases of illicit trafficking on nuclear materials.

### **Fight against piracy**

- The EU actively supports international cooperation on the fight against piracy. These efforts require addressing not only the symptoms, but also the wider causes of the problem –only a comprehensive approach addressing the problems on the land, and not only at sea, can provide a sustainable solution in the long term.
- The EU supports the efforts of the Regional Cooperation Agreement against Armed robbery and Piracy (ReCAAP) in the straits of Singapore and Malacca - the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery in Asia. We are pleased to see that the number of pirate attacks in Southeast Asia is diminishing, which shows the effectiveness of regional cooperation.

- In the Horn of Africa, however the EU believes that helping Somalia to move from conflict and fragility to a stable and development-enabling environment requires a long-term, comprehensive and multidimensional approach, combining different policies and instruments, as well as enhanced international cooperation. To this end, the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia is a useful vehicle to exchange views and coordinate as much as possible policies among its members.
- The EU continues to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast through the CSDP operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta, which with a prolonged mandate until December 2012 has allowed the safe delivery of food aid by World Food Programme and provided support to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM).
- On the basis of the Transfer Agreement with the Seychelles and an ad hoc agreement with Kenya, 22 suspected pirates were transferred for prosecution in the Seychelles and 79 to Kenya. We have also started negotiations for a Transfer Agreement with Mauritius. Under the Stability Instrument, the EU –in partnership with UNODC– also provides support to the judicial systems of Kenya and Seychelles.
- Several Asian countries such as China, India, Japan, Malaysia, and the Republic of Korea have also deployed naval forces off the Somali coast, hence making an important contribution to international maritime security.
- But the international community also needs to take a determined action to track pirates' illicit financial flows, freeze their assets and continue acting firmly against instigators of piracy.

Let me conclude this short address by underlining how important the ARF is for the promotion of Europe's security. Not only the ARF agenda closely reflects our external security priorities as defined in the European Security Strategy; but also is the only forum that brings together all the countries with common security interests in the region, hence serving also as a useful platform for enhancing political and security dialogue with our partner countries and the ASEAN.

The EU will continue to support the strengthening of the ARF as a forum with a comprehensive security approach, combining political dialogue and international cooperation.

Thank you!

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