

IAI OBSERVATORY ON EUROPEAN DEFENCE

JUNE 2011

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

NEW ESA – EDA COOPERATION AGREEMENT

JUNE 20

European Defence Agency (Eda) and European Space Agency (Esa) signed an Administrative Agreement on Cooperation. The agreement aims to establish a structured relationship between the two agencies, through a coordination of their activities, especially regarding space assets and the development of European capabilities required for crisis management and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The two agencies are already cooperating in fields such as ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance), Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) satellite communications and other space technologies. The agreement was previously approved by the Council of the European Union and the Council of Esa.

JUNE 1-30

NATO EXTENDS OPERATION “UNIFIED PROTECTOR” IN LYBIA FOR 90 DAYS

NATO Defence Ministers and other countries contributing to “Unified Protector” operation has decided to extend the operations in Libya until September 25, 2011. On June 4 the “Unified Protector” commander, general Charles Bouchard, announced that some attack helicopters were deployed for the first time. They hit vehicles, equipments and Gheddafi’s loyal forces. During the month the attacks have continued against armed forces, military facilities and command and control centres of Tripoli’s government.

JUNE 6-10

FIRST JOINT NATO-RUSSIA EXERCISE ON AIR COUNTERTERRORISM

The counterterrorism exercise “Vigilant Skies 2011” took place. It was the first joint exercise

between Russia and NATO whose assets were provided by Poland and Turkey. In particular the exercise have shown the efficiency of the NATO-Russia Council Cooperative Airspace Initiative, one of the main sectors of cooperation among the two partners. The aim of the exercise was to avoid a terrorist attack carried out by civilian airplanes, such as the 9/11 event, by information sharing on movements in NATO and Russian airspace, as well as by coordinating the interception efforts of the hijacked airplane.

JUNE 7

EU ESTABLISHES A TASK FORCE FOR THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, has established a new task force for the Southern Mediterranean area. This unit will gather officers from the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Construction and Development and other financial Institutions. The main duty of the task force is to support financially the development of the civil society, the economic recovery and the democratization progress of the southern side of the Mediterranean. This initiative follows the approval, on May 25, of the new European Neighborhood Policy, and the political and economic assistance towards Egypt and Tunisia, already provided on a bilateral basis.

JUNE 8

NATO ADOPTS A NEW POLICY ON CYBER-DEFENCE

On June 8, the NATO defence ministers adopted a new “Policy on Cyber Defence”, which underlines the commitment towards this “new” domain. The Policy mainly focuses on the prevention of cyber

threats and structure resilience. In the future the whole NATO computer systems will enjoy a centralized protection, and new parameters on cyber defence will be enforced. This Policy clarifies the political and operational mechanisms of response to a cyber attack, and it establishes principles of cooperation with partner nations, universities, international organizations and the private sector. In the meanwhile NATO has approved an action plan to manage the Policy on Cyber Defence implementation.

JUNE 20

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE CATHERINE ASHTON APPOINTS A NEW EEAS DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

High Representative Catherine Ashton appointed the Austrian Christian Berger, former head of the European Mission in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as EEAS Director for North Africa and the Middle East.

JUNE 20-27

EU STRENGTHENS THE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AGAINST BELARUS AND SYRIA AND AMENDS THOSE AGAINST COTE D'IVOIRE

On June 20, the EU Foreign Affairs Council strengthened the restrictive measures against Belarus, due to the worsening of the situation concerning human rights, democracy and the rule of law. An embargo was established on supplying arms and equipments that can be used for internal repression. The list of persons affected by visa ban was expanded and the assets of three companies close to the government were frozen. On June 23 the Council adopted a decision and a regulation imposing other restrictive measures, such as visa ban and asset freeze, against further seven persons and eighteen entities related to the Syrian government. The worsening of the internal situation in the country led to the hardening of the initiatives already voted by the Council on May 2011. On June 27, the Council removed the restrictions for the last three entities of the Ivory Coast affected by the asset freeze, with the aim to encourage the economic recovery of the country.

JUNE 23

EU PARLIAMENT – EU COUNCIL AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN FRONTEX AGENCY

The EU Justice and Home Affairs Council and the European Parliament agreed on a draft regulation on Frontex, the European Agency in charge of external borders control. The new rules concern Agency's ability to acquire or to rent equipments such as vehicles, boats or helicopters, alone or in co-ownership with a member State; the increase of risk analysis activities; the possibility to exchange information with Europol and other European agencies that deal with security issues; more responsibilities on training and research; the ability to send liaison officers in other states; an active role on repatriations. The agreement was reached after trilateral negotiations between the Hungarian presidency of the Council, the EU Commission and the EU Parliament. The final approval of the draft by the Parliament is scheduled for September 2011.