



EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

The EU increases its support to peace and security in Somalia

The European Commission has decided to increase its contribution to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The new funding adds to the continued support the EU has given to AMISOM since 2007 and will cover costs such as allowances, medical care, housing, fuel and communication equipment. The decision comes shortly after a major conference in London at which international partners discussed the future of Somalia and where the EU reaffirmed that stabilising and developing the country, together with the African Union and international partners, is an EU priority.

AMISOM is an African Union-led mission, mandated by the United Nations Security Council. The new EU support covers the period February to July 2012 and amounts to €67 million which brings the EU contribution to a total of €325 million. The mission has been active in Somalia since 2007, supporting dialogue and reconciliation and providing protection to key infrastructures (e.g. government buildings and the Mogadishu International Airport) to enable the Transitional Federal Institutions to carry out their functions. The mission is also assisting in the implementation of the national Security and Stabilisation plan, providing support to disarmament and stabilisation efforts, as well as facilitating humanitarian operations, including repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons.

Over the past few months, progress has been achieved, as AMISOM and the forces of the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) have regained control of most of the capital of Mogadishu. Current force levels have reached more than 9,800. The renewed EU support, will allow AMISOM to continue to fulfil its mandate and reach a total strength of 12,000 uniformed personnel.

Recently, the UN Security Council endorsed an increase of AMISOM's strength to a total of up to 17,731. The EU has responded by announcing its intention (at the London conference on Somalia on 23 February) to allocate additional funds to cover parts of the future needs of AMISOM.

Since the deployment of AMISOM, the EU has been one of the main funders of the operation both through the African Peace Facility which is the EU's main instrument to support Peace and Security in Africa and through bilateral contributions of its Member States.

Background

The EU support to AMISOM is funded under the African Peace Facility (APF), which provides substantial predictable funding for Africa-led Peace Support operations and supports the African Peace and Security Architecture as well as the EU-Africa dialogue on peace and security. Total APF funding for the period 2004 – 2013 amounts to over €1 billion. The APF is the major instrument of the Partnership on Peace and Security of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

The APF's financial support to AMISOM is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive and long-term approach to support security and development efforts in Somalia. This approach contains political, diplomatic, civilian, military, humanitarian, and development dimensions. In the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy, two EU military missions are currently contributing to regional security: the EU EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta, which improves maritime security by fighting piracy in the Indian Ocean and escorting ships transporting humanitarian assistance of the World Food Programme, and the military training mission EUTM Somalia that contributes to the training of the Somali Security Forces. On 1 December 2011 the Foreign Affairs Council agreed to complement these operations with a new civilian training mission in order to strengthen the maritime capacities of eight countries in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.

More information:

Website of EuropeAid:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm

Website of the European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/piebalgs

More on the EU and the African Peace Facility:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/peace-facility>