EUROPEAN COMMISSION – PRESS RELEASE

The EU supports training of police, civilian and military personnel for African Peace Support Operations

Brussels, 12 March 2012 – The European Commission has decided to further strengthen training of police, civilian and military personnel that can be deployed in African Peace Support Operations and therefore be part of the African Standby Force. Seventeen training centres have been identified which will provide specific trainings requested by five African regions and coordinated by the African Union Commission. The programme also foresees the establishment of an African e-library which will be accessible across the African continent and will provide relevant documentations for African Standby Force training purposes.

This EU decision will support the African Union Commission, the five African regional organizations and the training centres with EUR 11.4 million for the period of 1 February 2012 to 31 January 2014. The funds are channelled through the African Peace Facility.

The programme aims at significantly enhancing the capacities of the regions to conduct their own training activities coordinated at continental level by the African Union Commission. All training programmes will be standardised and harmonised across the regions. The programme will also improve the capacity of the individual training centres to provide standardised African Standby Force training programmes.

Background

The African Standby Force was established by the African Union in 2004 and was conceived to conduct, observe and monitor African peace support missions responding to emergency situations anywhere in the African continent. Each of the five African regions must provide a brigade with military, police and civilian components.

The five regional institutions that will be supported by the programme are the following:

- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)
- North African Regional Capability (NARC)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
The support to the African Training Centres will be channelled through the African Peace Facility (APF). The APF is currently the major instrument of the Partnership on Peace and Security of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. It 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.

**For more information**

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

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

http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/