



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council Conclusions on Somalia**

*2870th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting  
Brussels, 26 and 27 May 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council is seriously concerned over the security situation in Somalia and its negative humanitarian and human rights consequences. The Council reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive approach to a lasting settlement of the Somali crisis, covering its political, security and humanitarian aspects. It reiterates that the only way to restore the situation is through a political process ultimately inclusive of all concerned Somali stakeholders that renounce violence in the interest of the people of Somalia. The Council commends those committed to dialogue in search of common ground.
2. The Transitional Federal Charter provides the only credible framework for an inclusive consultative process and broad-based ownership in shaping the future of Somalia through a permanent Constitution. The Council calls on all parties to engage in a constructive dialogue in shaping the future constitution of Somalia, to be the subject of a popular referendum in 2009, leading to elections.
3. The Council welcomes the continued efforts by the Prime Minister Nur "Adde" Hassan Hussein and his Cabinet, under the leadership of President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, and supported by the Transitional Federal Parliament, to advance the political process. To that end, it welcomes the outcome of the meeting held in Djibouti from 10-15 May 2008 under the auspices of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) Ould-Abdallah and urges all the parties to comply with the engagement to continue further discussions on 31 May and to put aside their differences, facilitate unhindered humanitarian access and the delivery of assistance to the people with immediate effect. The Council also welcomes the ongoing dialogue between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and local leaders in Mogadishu.

# **P R E S S**

4. The Council is deeply troubled by the extremely serious humanitarian situation in Somalia, due to the combined effects of drought and violence. The Council calls on all parties to comply fully with international humanitarian law and its principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. The Council welcomes the intention expressed by the TFG to create a focal point for the humanitarian crisis as well as the commitment by the TFG to facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access to those in need, and calls on all other concerned parties to do the same, in the interest of protecting the lives of innocent civilians disproportionately victimized in the present fighting.
5. The Council urges that all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights be officially denounced and investigated. The Council supports the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the Independent Expert for Somalia, and encourages them to undertake an independent fact-finding and assessment mission to Somalia to address the human rights situation. This would be a welcome first step towards the creation of a mechanism to investigate systematic human rights abuses by all parties. The EU is ready to increase its support in the field of human rights, notably for capacity building within public institutions and services.
6. The Council commends the work of the AU Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), currently acting in Somalia on behalf of the international community. The Council commends the commitment of Uganda and Burundi to AMISOM and calls on all African Troup-Contributing Countries and other potential regional partners to provide the units required for the full deployment of AMISOM. The Council welcomes international efforts to enhance financial, logistical and technical support to AMISOM. The Council recalls the readiness of the EU and its Member States to continue to increase their support to AMISOM, *inter alia* by identifying substantial new financial support. The EU will continue to work, with the AU Commission and other partners, towards mechanisms that will facilitate the receipt and management of contributions for AMISOM and other future peace support missions.
7. The Council welcomes the unanimous adoption on 15 May of UN Security Council Resolution 1814 and emphasises the EU's full support for all its provisions. The Council welcomes the commitment of the UN to continue contingency planning for the possible deployment of a UN Mission to succeed AMISOM and welcomes its willingness to consider taking over from AMISOM at an appropriate time, subject to progress in the political process and improvement in the security situation on the ground. The Council fully supports the integrated and comprehensive approach aligning the political, security and programmatic work of the UN. The EU stands ready to expand its support in this field, including support for the ongoing reconciliation process, in view of achieving the political agreement which is necessary for effective mobilisation of the UN force, and for an agreed comprehensive security sector reform programme.
8. The EU remains firmly behind the initiatives of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and is ready to provide political, financial and technical support to facilitate a process of dialogue and consultations with key constituencies, fully supports his leadership role, *inter alia* in facilitating improved multi-faceted coordination of international support for peace, security and development in Somalia. The Council welcomes the reinvigorated role of the International Contact Group on Somalia under the leadership of the SRSG and stays committed to participation in this mechanism, including at field level.

9. The Council expresses its concern over the upsurge of piracy attacks off the Somali coast, which affect humanitarian efforts, international maritime traffic in the region and contribute to continued violations of the UN arms embargo. The Council greatly appreciates the commitment of the UN Security Council to addressing the problem of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast and looks forward to the early adoption of a Security Council resolution to that effect.

10. The Council commends the sequenced initiatives of some EU member States to provide protection to World Food Programme vessels and welcomes the provisions of paragraph 11 of UN Security Council Resolution 1814 in this regard. The Council stresses the need for wider participation by the international community in these escorts in order to secure the delivery of humanitarian aid to Somali populations."

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