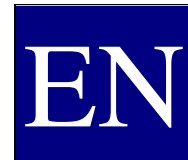




**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council Conclusions on the ESDP**

*2903rd EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting  
Brussels, 10 and 11 November 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

### **I. ESDP OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS**

#### **[EXTRACT WESTERN BALKANS]**

##### **Western Balkans**

##### **Operation EUFOR ALTHEA**

The Council assessed operation ALTHEA and approved the recommendations made in the Secretary-General/High Representative's six-monthly report on the operation.

The Council expressed deep concern at the recent political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, it noted that despite a difficult political situation, the security situation remained stable.

In the context of the European Union's overall commitment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council highlighted the decisive progress made by operation ALTHEA towards accomplishing its mandate, and in particular the completion of the military and stabilisation tasks provided for by the Dayton/Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the Council considered that the preparatory work for a possible development of the operation should be continued, taking into account the future role of the EU Special Representative.

# **P R E S S**

The outcome of this preparatory work will be submitted to the Council in March 2009 so that it can take a decision on the future of the operation as soon as the conditions have been met. The future development of operation ALTHEA will have to take political developments into account.

The Council noted that cooperation with NATO on operation ALTHEA was continuing to work smoothly.

#### European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Council noted the efforts made by the EUPM to support the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing the police reform legislation adopted in April 2008 and improving coordination of the police forces and judicial system. The EUPM, the mandate of which expires in December 2009, will continue to play an important role in the stabilisation and European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When the time comes, the Council will consider the prospects for the development of the mission after 2009.

#### EULEX KOSOVO

The Council welcomed the preparations made for the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX KOSOVO), including the current deployment of the mission personnel, to enable the mission to fulfil its mandate from the beginning of December 2008.