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To all EBCAM Members

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ONE)-COMMISSION CREATES TWO NEW DIRECTORATES GENERAL AND RESHUFFLES SENIOR MANAGER

The Commission has taken, upon a proposal from President Barroso and Vice-President Šefčovič, a number of decisions in order to implement its mobility policy for Senior Staff. This is the first mobility package since the start of this Commission. This package deals with the mobility of Senior Managers at Director General level who have reached five years or more in their present job, with the transfer of one Director-General having the same nationality as his current Commissioner, and the transfer and promotion of three Deputy Directors-General to Director General functions. With this package, the Commission, while reaffirming the principle that appointments are made on the basis of merit as a first criterion, ensures the promotion of two female Senior Officials to Director General functions. This package is adopted at the same time as the creation of two new Directorates General, splitting the former Justice, Freedom and Security Directorate General. The two new Directorates General are DG Home Affairs and DG Justice, and their respective Directors General are appointed in the context of the package.

The key objective of this mobility package is to fill a number of Director-General functions in high priority policy areas, including the two newly created DG Home Affairs and DG Justice, and promote Senior Officials to Directorate-General functions, based primarily on the assessment of their merit. Two out of the three promotions concern female Senior Officials. The Commission decision deals with:

- the mobility of two Senior Officials in Director-General functions who have reached five years in their present job, Jonathan Faull (from DG JLS to DG MARKT) and **Stefano Manservigi (from DG DEV to the newly created DG HOME AFFAIRS)**.
- the mobility of one Senior Official who has the same nationality as the Commissioner responsible for the Directorate-General of which he is currently the Director-General. **Fokion Fotiadis is therefore transferred from DG MARE to DG DEV**, thus applying the standard policy that as a general rule, the Commissioner and the Director-General responsible for the same Directorate General should not have the same nationality.
- the transfer and promotion of three Deputy Director Generals to the function of Director General, Lowri Evans, Françoise Le Bail and Robert-Jan Smits. Lowri Evans moves from DG COMP to DG MARE, Françoise Le Bail from DG ENTR to DG JUSTICE, Robert-Jan Smits from DG JRC to DG RTD.

The principles underlying this mobility round are the ones spelled out in previous Commission decisions of the same nature. Merit is the dominant criterion in decisions on senior appointments. This is coupled with a search for the best possible match between Commissioners and Directors-General. The Commission also strives to ensure an adequate balance of nationalities across its DGs and Services whilst at the same time promoting better gender balance. This mobility round therefore aims to ensure:

- The best balance of merit, competence and management effectiveness: The emphasis placed on relevant management qualifications and experience seeks to guarantee that officials can deliver effectively in their new function.
- Geographical balance: The Commission aims to maintain a broad geographical balance in order to ensure a fair spread of all the nationalities and does not, therefore, apply quotas at any level of posts for its officials. The Commission considers it a desirable objective that each nationality should hold at least one Director-General or equivalent function. The Appointing Authority will take particular account of geographical balance also with regard to the state of play in the recruitment of senior officials from the new Member States.
- Gender balance: In making appointments, the Appointing Authority will, in principle, give priority to women where it finds, after conducting an assessment, that candidates are of equal merit.
- The Commission reaffirms its attachment to the principle that mobility should apply as a general rule to all senior officials who have occupied the same function for five successive years. In exceptional circumstances officials may be required to remain in function beyond this period within the maximum of seven years.

TWO)- COMMISSIONER PIEBALGS VISITS DENMARK TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Andris Piebalgs the EC Commissioner for Development, was in Copenhagen on 3rd and 4th June to meet June to meet with Soren Pind, Danish Minister for Development, and to attend the Conference on "EU development cooperation in the light of the Lisbon Treaty", organised by the Danish Council of Development cooperation. He will also meet with representatives from Danish companies and NGOs active in the renewable energy sector in Africa. High on the agenda will be the preparation of the United Nations Summit in September, which will assess progress towards international poverty-reduction targets, the Millennium Development Goals.

EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs said: "Denmark is one of the most committed Member States to Development aid. I'm confident it will remain a sound ally of the Commission to find ways to make our aid more efficient and ensure EU lives up its promises to the poorest countries. Danish role is also crucial in the preparation for the UN Summit on Millennium Development Goals where the EU has to speak with one voice."

Background

The Conference on "EU development cooperation in the light of the Lisbon Treaty" is organised by the Council for International Development Cooperation, an advisory body for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (department of development policies). The Council is mandated to follow the work of the UN Steering Committee which is preparing the United Nations High Level Plenary Meeting (UNHLP) on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Steering Committee is co-facilitated by Denmark and Senegal.

THREE)- EU FUNDING FOR ANTI-TSETSE PROJECT IN AFRICA

The European Union (EU) and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) have signed a financial agreement totalling 1.5 million euros to support a new project that will enable livestock holders in Africa, particularly pastoralists and agropastoralists, to access a revolutionary new device to combat tsetse flies that has been developed by the research centre. The technology involves the use of repellent collars, which contain either synthetic equivalents of the odours of animals that tsetse flies tend to avoid, for instance Waterbucks, or chemicals developed through molecular optimization of natural repellents found in the urine of cows. Worn around the neck of the cattle, these repellent collars slowly release the chemicals, thereby protecting the animals from the flies. The three-year project, which will be coordinated by Dr Rajinder K. Saini, Principal Scientist at ICIPE, is funded under the EU Food Security Thematic Programme Strategic Priority 1: Supporting the delivery of international public goods contributing to food security through research and technology. In Nairobi last Wednesday, Dr Peter Stureson, Counsellor for Rural Development at the EU Delegation to Kenya, noted that by funding the project the EU Mission recognizes the importance of the livestock sector for the improved well-being of communities across Africa, especially that of the pastoralists who will benefit most from the ICIPE technology.

FOUR)- COMESA AND EU SIGN A 20 MILLION EURO AGRO INPUT PROJECT

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the European Union have signed a Euro 20 million contribution agreement to support the COMESA agro inputs project known as COMRAP. This will contribute to improving rural household food security and livelihoods in the COMESA region. More specifically, over the next two years, the project will improve smallholders' access to agricultural inputs and will improve the regional legal frameworks so as to increase agricultural productivity. The project will alleviate the constraints faced by smallholder farmers who want to access seeds, fertilisers and financing in order to increase the volume of their staple crop production.

FIVE)- SOMALI PIRATES CAPTURE ANOTHER CARGO

Un cargo battant pavillon panaméen, le Dubai, a été capturé avec ses 24 membres d'équipage par des pirates somaliens, mercredi dans le golfe d'Aden, a indiqué le quartier général de la force antipiraterie de l'UE. "Aux premières heures le 2 juin, le propriétaire du MV QSM Dubai a rapporté qu'un groupe de pirates en armes étaient montés à bord du bateau et s'en étaient saisi", a annoncé le QG d'Atalante dans un communiqué. Ce cargo de 15.220 tonnes a un équipage de 24 marins de nationalités égyptienne, pakistanaise, bangladaise et ghanéenne, a-t-il précisé. Un navire de guerre américain, le Cole, qui participe à la flottille de l'Otan engagée dans la lutte antipiraterie au large de la Somalie, a observé la présence d'un homme armé d'un lance-roquettes à bord du Dubai et un avion de patrouille maritime a ensuite confirmé sa capture, a encore indiqué Atalante. Le Dubai, dont la destination était le Brésil, se trouvait dans le couloir de navigation recommandé lorsqu'il a été pris d'assaut par les pirates. **CREW TAKES OVER FROM PIRATES** Les marins d'un cargo libyen capturé par des pirates somaliens en février ont repris le contrôle de leur navire après une bataille avec leurs ravisseurs, dont certains ont sans doute été tués, a annoncé mercredi la force navale anti-piraterie de l'UE, Atalante. Mercredi, à 10H10 locales, le cargo libyen RIM capturé (par des pirates) a informé (la force navale de l'UE) que l'équipage a repris le contrôle du bateau", a indiqué Atalante dans un communiqué. "Un des membres de l'équipage a été sérieusement blessé" durant la bataille avec les pirates, a indiqué Atalante et "plusieurs pirates auraient été tués".

SIX)- AFRICA: WOMEN DEMAND ANSWERS AND ACTION FROM ICC

With the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) under way in the Ugandan capital Kampala, women are crying out for justice for gender-based violence inflicted upon them during the civil conflict in the country's north.

"Women who were raped, those who were once abducted and have since come back with children, as well as those who have lost property during this conflict are all crying out for some form of justice," says Jane Adong, Legal Officer of the Hague-based Women's Initiative for Gender Justice (WIGJ). "For instance, there is a group (of women) who are saying they don't know where to go to seek justice for gender based crimes. So what role is the ICC playing, they ask? Is there a court in Uganda to try such crimes?"

"What about the fate of those children who were born in captivity? And the abducted ones? ... Clear commitments; that's what women want," says Odong.

Women from different parts of the world who are attending the conference also want an active voice and equal representation in matters of conflict resolution and peace processes. They want clear commitments from both the ICC and state parties on the way forward in seeking justice for women survivors of gender-based violence inflicted in armed conflict in their respective countries.

They fear that the perpetrators of such crimes remain a threat to peace and security as long as they are not arrested. From the conference, they expect to find out about the status of the warrants and to know whether they will receive justice, where and when.

To date, the ICC has opened investigations in five countries -- Central African Republic; Sudan; Uganda; Democratic Republic of Congo; and Kenya -- of cases of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. It has publicly issued twelve arrest warrants and one summons to appear. The leader of Uganda's rebel Lords Resistance Army, Joseph Kony, and Sudan's President Omar Bashir are among those who have been issued warrants but not yet been apprehended.

"So long as the perpetrators are out there, these women sleep with one eye open and the other one closed," Adong says.

Clear commitments

Among other issues, the two-week Conference will review the overall success and impact of the Rome Statute. It will assess the complementarity and cooperation of states as well as the impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities and peace and justice.

"The cooperation of states is vital to the Court's long term success, particularly in ensuring that arrest warrants can be executed," says Carla Ferstman, Director of REDRESS, a UK based NGO that advocates for victims rights.

Amira Mohammed Khair, Sudan Programme Officer with WIGJ, agrees.

"Communities in Sudan are among the most long-suffering due to the lack of government cooperation. When victims first heard about the ICC and the international system they were so optimistic. But now there is a great disappointment among them," says Khair.

According to Khair, the issuance of an arrest warrant on President Bashir has negatively affected women in refugee and internally displaced people camps in Darfur and neighbouring Chad. "The expulsion of International NGO's by Bashir is having great consequences on the affected communities and especially women who take risks fetching firewood and water from long distances, exposing them to intimidation and rape by both government and janjaweed militia," Khair explains. Fearful of the possible repercussions, affected communities will not cooperate with the justice system.

A voice

Women say with greater representation in peace processes and conflict resolution, they could bring significant changes for women affected by armed conflict. But women continue to be sidelined in peace processes in spite of several U.N. resolutions that support women's participation.

"We can't continue calling women 'guests' like they call the women participating in the Darfur Peace process. It is as if they are not part of the negotiations. At times they can even be asked to go outside because certain matters are going to be discussed," Khair says.

Ferstman agrees: "Victims are no longer the silent bystanders who must suffer in silence. Mechanisms such as the International Criminal Court are there to provide victims' with an independent voice, to enable them to be heard in safety and dignity and to ensure that they achieve justice that is meaningful.

SEVEN)- EU COMMISSION APPROVES 24 MILLION EURO FOOD AID TO THE SAHEL

La Commission européenne a décidé mercredi d'allouer 24 millions d'euros supplémentaires pour aider plus de sept millions de personnes vulnérables, victimes de la crise alimentaire au Niger, au Tchad, au Burkina Faso et dans le nord du Nigeria. "Il est clair désormais que la situation au Sahel se dégrade", a expliqué la commissaire européenne chargée de la coopération internationale Kristalina Georgieva. "Avec ces 24 millions d'euros supplémentaires, la Commission continue d'afficher sa détermination à agir à un stade précoce pour atténuer les effets des pénuries alimentaires et essayer d'empêcher la réapparition de crises majeures comme celles qui ont gravement touché la région du Sahel ces dernières décennies", a-t-elle poursuivi. Mme Georgieva a prévu de se rendre au Niger les 3 et 4 juin pour évaluer la situation humanitaire du pays et la réponse engagée pour faire face à la crise alimentaire. Ces nouveaux fonds doivent permettre de financer davantage d'opérations dans les secteurs de la nutrition et de la santé, et notamment des programmes d'alimentation complémentaire générale, le dépistage et le traitement de la malnutrition aiguë des enfants, l'accès gratuit aux soins de santé en cas d'urgence et des services de santé mobiles pour les populations pastorales. Pas moins de 10 millions de personnes, rien qu'au Niger et au Tchad, dépendent de l'aide d'urgence pour survivre pendant l'actuelle "période de soudure", dans l'attente de la prochaine récolte en novembre, a rappelé la Commission. Le déficit de production alimentaire résultant de l'irrégularité des pluies à la fin de l'année 2009 est évalué à plus de 30% au Niger et à plus de 34% au Tchad. Les gouvernements de ces deux pays ont déclaré l'état d'urgence et fait appel à l'aide internationale. L'Unicef estime que chaque année, au Sahel, 300.000 enfants de moins de cinq ans meurent de malnutrition, directement ou non. En 2009, la Commission a alloué 33 millions d'aide humanitaire pour la région du Sahel. Depuis le début de l'année 2010, son financement humanitaire pour le Sahel s'est élevé à 44 millions d'euros (dont les 24 millions débloqués mercredi).

EIGHT)- AFRICAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The 2010 edition of the African Economic Outlook was launched on the 24/05/2010 in Abidjan, at the Annual Meeting of the Boards of Governors of the African Development Bank Group. The special focus this

year is on "Domestic resource mobilization, fiscal governance and aid in Africa". The African Economic Outlook is the only report on Africa produced by African institutions, in partnership with international organizations (OECD, AfDB, UNECA, financed partially by the EU – 1/3 of the financial contributions). The report analyses the current socio-economic performance of African economies per countries on their short to medium term perspectives. This edition increased the country coverage **to 50** African states, accounting for more than 99% of the continent's economic output and 97% of African population.

The report broadens the knowledge base on African economies and supports policymaking,, investment decisions and donors' interventions. A special focus is chosen each year with relevance to African development: water (2006), transport and sanitation (2007), technical and vocational skills (2008), ICT (2009), domestic resource mobilization and fiscal governance (2010).

Africa proved to be more resilient to the global crisis than some observers had feared **thanks** to prudent macro policies prior to the downturn that resulted in improved economic fundamentals in many African countries. The AEO finds that the global crisis brought a period of relatively high economic growth in Africa to a sudden end: Africa's GDP growth was slashed **from an average of about 6%** in 2006-2008 to 2.5% in 2009. Given the pace of population growth this means that growth of per capita GDP came to a near standstill. Average growth is expected to rebound to 4.5% in 2010 and 5.2% in 2011, **although** the recession will leave its mark.

The theme of this year AEO is related to the Communication on "[Tax and development – cooperating with developing countries on promoting good governance in tax matter](#)", adopted by the European Commission in April 2010. In its cooperation with developing countries, European Commission will take into account the central role taxes can have on several central issues such as good governance, redistribution of wealth and economic growth.

Taxation and development

The 2010 AEO includes a special study on Public Resource Mobilisation—or taxation—one means for African governments to become less dependent on aid in the long run, to the benefit of recipients and donors. There are very large differences in the tax raising performance of individual countries. Annual taxes per capita ranged in 2008 from between USD 20 to 40 in Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Congo Dem. Rep., Sierra Leone and Ethiopia, to USD 4 866 in Equatorial Guinea, and USD 11 725 in Libya. In fact, tax effort estimates confirm that some countries collect as little as half of what would be expected, given their living standards and economic structures, while others collect two to three times what is expected. In particular, resource-rich countries have made little effort to broaden their tax base. By contrast Kenya, Morocco, Ghana and Cape Verde have shown that it is possible to collect taxes effectively from diversified sources. Strategies towards more effective, efficient, and fair taxation in Africa typically lie with broadening the existing tax base. Policy options include cracking down on fraud and evasion, removing tax preferences, particularly for large corporations and traders, dealing with abuses of transfer pricing techniques by multinationals and taxing extractive industries more fairly and more transparently.

NINE)- SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS CLOSER TIES WITH INDIA

Le président sud-africain Jacob Zuma a appelé jeudi à un renforcement des liens avec l'Inde, en particulier dans le domaine économique, à l'occasion d'une visite d'Etat de trois jours, la première en Asie depuis sa prise de fonction en mai 2009. Devant des hommes d'affaires réunis à Bombay, la capitale économique de l'Inde, Zuma a déclaré "souhaiter s'engager fermement" pour renforcer des relations ayant débuté voici 150 ans avec l'arrivée des premiers immigrants indiens en Afrique du sud. Le chef d'Etat a souhaité que les échanges commerciaux, aujourd'hui de l'ordre de 7,5 milliards de dollars, augmentent à 10 mds USD d'ici 2012. Les deux pays se retrouvent également dans leur volonté de défier la traditionnelle prédominance économique de l'Europe et des Etats-Unis. D'après le quotidien Economic Times publié jeudi, le géant indien de la téléphonie mobile, Reliance Communications, caresse l'idée d'une éventuelle fusion avec le numéro un sud africain de la téléphonie mobile MTN. Selon le quotidien, Reliance cherche à générer des liquidités pour

financer son entrée sur le marché de la téléphonie mobile de troisième génération, dont il vient d'obtenir des licences lors d'une coûteuse vente aux enchères lancée par le gouvernement. En septembre dernier, l'indien Bharti s'était cassé les dents pour la deuxième fois en deux ans sur un projet de fusion avec MTN, en raison de problèmes de législations en vigueur dans les deux pays. Selon le ministre indien du Commerce Anand Sharma, les échanges commerciaux auraient pu être plus forts "s'il n'y avait pas eu des erreurs de certains qui ont conduit au ralentissement économique mondial". Jacob Zuma doit s'entretenir vendredi avec le Premier ministre Manmohan Singh et assister à un dîner présidé par la présidente de l'Inde, Pratibha Patil. Outre les relations commerciales, seront entre autres évoquées les réformes au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU et une coopération plus étroite sur la question des changements climatiques et de l'économie mondiale. Les deux pays sont tous deux candidats aux sièges non permanents au Conseil de sécurité qui seront vacants l'an prochain. Le Conseil de sécurité est composé de 15 membres: cinq permanents avec droit de veto, et dix non permanents, élus pour deux ans.

TEN)- NINE DEAD AS SOUTH SUDAN ARMY CLASHES WITH MILITIA

South Sudan's army said on Thursday it had clashed with a militia leader, killing eight of his men, and promised capture him dead or alive, the latest battle in the oil-producing region since April's elections. Under a 2005 north-south peace deal ending Africa's longest civil war, southerners will vote in a plebiscite on secession in seven months. "Yesterday we ambushed the forces of Galwak Gai ... and we killed eight of his men and we captured 13," south Sudan's army (SPLA) spokesman Kuol Diem Kuol said on Thursday. "They killed one from our side and two were wounded." The clashes happened in the oil-rich Unity state. Gai is one of at least two other militia leaders coordinating with a former top SPLA officer George Athor who turned rogue after losing in April's elections, citing fraud. Athor's troops are in the neighbouring Jonglei state where French oil giant Total holds a largely unexplored oil concession. "We are now in hot pursuit of Galwak," Kuol said. "He will be captured or he will be killed," he said, adding Athor -who has yet to make good on a threat to attack a main town last month- was in hiding. Kuol said Sudan's intelligence services were supporting the armed groups in the south, after the northern army refused to help them. "According to the (prisoners) they were armed by the national intelligence in Khartoum," he said. Sudan's northern army denied the report. "The intelligence services work under the army and this is not true at all," an army spokesman said. "No organ can give any support to anyone rebelling anywhere in Sudan." Sudan's north-south war claimed 2 million lives, mostly through hunger and disease, and destabilise much of east Africa. The international community has urged the north and south governments to begin talks urgently to agree on the disputed border and oil shares post-referendum.

ELEVEN)- SUDANESE SECURITY FORCES BEAT DOCTORS IN PROTEST MARCH

Sudanese doctors said they were going on strike on Thursday after security forces attacked a peaceful protest march through Khartoum by hundreds of medical personnel. In what was seen as crackdown on dissent following national elections, security officials armed with sticks attacked the doctors, injuring many of the more than 500 who had joined Wednesday's demonstration to protest at the arrest of their leaders, witnesses said. Sudanese doctors and lawyers were the driving force behind a popular uprising in 1985, which overthrew then leader Jaafar Nimeiri. Also on Wednesday, Sudanese security forces released one of four staff from the opposition al-Rai al-Shaab newspaper, which it had raided and closed down last month. The other three were charged with crimes including waging war against the state and espionage, their lawyer said. "We are asking them to be taken to court," said opposition lawyer Kamal Omer on Thursday. He said Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi, whose Popular Congress Party ran the paper, had been in poor health since he was arrested last month. "He has the right under the law to be told what the charges against him are yet he has not been questioned or charged with anything," Omer said.

TWELVE)- MANY CIVILIANS DEAD AS SOMALI 'GOVERNMENT' LAUNCHES MOGADISHU ASSAULT

Au moins 21 civils ont été tués jeudi à Mogadiscio, où les forces gouvernementales, appuyées par la force de paix africaine, ont attaqué des positions des insurgés islamistes shebab, a-t-on appris de sources concordantes. Les affrontements se sont déroulés dans plusieurs quartiers de Mogadiscio, à la fois dans le sud et le nord de la capitale, a constaté le correspondant de l'AFP. De nouvelles recrues du gouvernement de transition (TFG) récemment entraînées, appuyées par des engins blindés de la force de paix de l'Union africaine (Amisom), ont attaqué les positions des shebab, déclenchant de violents affrontements à l'arme légère et à l'arme lourde, dont de meurtriers tirs d'artillerie. "Les forces du gouvernement ont avancé vers des bastions des terroristes (shebab) ce matin, ils ont pris le contrôle de plusieurs quartiers où les insurgés étaient installés. Beaucoup de leurs cadavres jonchent les rues, et les combats continuent en ce moment", a affirmé à l'AFP le colonel Ahmed Ibrahim, un responsable de la sécurité au sein du TFG. "Les affrontements sont très violents aujourd'hui, les tirs d'artillerie et de mortiers ont touché de nombreux quartiers", a témoigné le responsable du service des ambulances de la capitale, Ali Muse. "Nos ambulances ont collecté jusqu'à présent les cadavres de 16 civils et 59 blessés", a assuré M. Muse. Duniya Ali, un responsable de l'hôpital Medina, l'un des principaux établissements hospitaliers de la capitale, a fait état pour sa part du décès de cinq des blessés admis dans la matinée. Cette offensive des forces pro-TFG intervient une dizaine de jours après une avancée des shebab. Le 23 mai, à la faveur d'une violente attaque sur les positions gouvernementales, les shebab étaient parvenus à s'approcher à moins de deux kms de Villa Somalia, le palais présidentiel. Ils avaient également progressé de plusieurs centaines de mètres dans les quartiers Shibis et Bondhere, au nord de la capitale, affirmant notamment avoir pris le contrôle de bâtiments abritant des activités des services de renseignement du TFG, et d'une colline stratégique surplombant le nord de la ville. Comme à chaque poussée de violences dans la capitale somalienne en ruine, ravagée par vingt ans de guerre civile, ces combats avaient provoqué la fuite de centaines d'habitants, et la mort d'une quinzaine de civils, victimes des duels d'artillerie, tirs de mortiers et échanges à la mitrailleuse lourde. L'avancée des combattants islamistes avait nécessité l'intervention urgente des soldats, ougandais et burundais de l'Amisom en appui aux forces pro-gouvernementales. Le très fragile TFG a été créé en janvier 2009 et est depuis soutenu à bout de bras par la communauté internationale. Ce gouvernement n'est présent que dans une petite partie de Mogadiscio, avec l'appui de 6.000 soldats ougandais et burundais de l'Amisom déployés dans les zones stratégiques. La majorité de la ville est contrôlée par les insurgés islamistes, qui contrôlent tout le centre-sud de la Somalie. Jeudi, il n'était pas possible à la mi-journée, en raison des combats en cours, de confirmer une éventuelle progression des soldats du TFG.

THIRTEEN)- PAKISTANI CAPTAIN DIES AS SOMALI FORCES STORM PIRATE-HELD SHIP

The Pakistani captain of a ship was killed Thursday as coastguards from Somalia's Puntland freed his vessel from pirates, reports said. The boat, a Panama-flagged MV QSM Dubai, had been hijacked on Wednesday, according to the European Union's anti-piracy EU NAVFOR mission. Coastguards on Thursday stormed the ship, which had been heading for the Puntland port of Bosasso when it was taken. "Our forces stormed the hijacked cargo ship and outgunned the pirates, they killed the captain of Pakistan nationality," Said Mohammed Rageh, Puntland's minister for ports, told Somali news portal Raxanreeb Online. Two pirates and one coastguard were injured in the shootout before the pirates surrendered the ship, which had a 24-member crew from Egypt, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Ghana. The battle came one day after the crew of a Libyan-owned ship wrested back control of their vessel from pirates. One crew member was seriously injured during the struggle on the MV RIM and several pirates were believed dead, EU NAVFOR said in a statement. Piracy is rife off the Horn of Africa nation of Somalia, which has not had an effective central government since 1991. Many of the pirates are based in Puntland, which has been largely unaffected by a bloody insurgency raging in south and central Somalia. Heavily-armed gangs take to the seas in search of multimillion-dollar ransoms despite the presence of a fleet of international warships, which were sent to region following a spike in pirate attacks in late 2008. However, the pirates have expanded their operations from the Gulf of Aden - one of the world's busiest waterways - into the Indian Ocean to avoid the patrols.

FOURTEEN)- CASH-STRAPPED GREECE TO CUT MILITARY PRESENCE IN KOSOVO, SOMALIA

L'armée grecque va réduire sa participation à la Kfor, la force de l'OTAN au Kosovo, et ses patrouilles antipirates au large de la Somalie dans le cadre de mesures d'économies, a annoncé jeudi l'état-major de l'armée. Ces réductions permettront au pays accablé par une dette gigantesque d'économiser plus de 23 millions d'euros, a précisé à l'AFP le porte-parole de l'état-major de l'armée grecque, le colonel Nikos Bonoras. Plus de 600 soldats et membres du personnel de soutien vont être retirés progressivement de la Kfor et ne seront pas remplacés, a précisé le colonel Bonoras. Une frégate grecque, qui fait partie de la force navale de l'OTAN qui patrouille au large de la Somalie, vient de terminer sa mission et ne retournera pas en Somalie, a-t-il ajouté. Une autre frégate grecque assure une mission séparée pour l'Union européenne au large de la Somalie. La Grèce dépense 21,7 millions d'euros par an pour l'entretien de 657 militaires au Kosovo et 5 millions d'euros pour les missions de six mois effectuées par la frégate grecque pour l'OTAN, a précisé le porte-parole.

FIFTEEN)- 19 DEAD IN ATTACK BY CONGO REBELS

Au moins 19 personnes, dont cinq soldats et huit civils congolais, ont été tuées mercredi dans l'attaque d'une position de l'armée dans l'est de la RD Congo attribuée à des rebelles hutus rwandais des FDLR, a affirmé jeudi l'armée congolaise.

SIXTEEN) - EU SUSPENDS AID TO MADAGASCAR

L'UE a décidé jeudi de suspendre son aide au développement à Madagascar en raison de l'absence de progrès démocratiques depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir controversée d'Andry Rajoelina en mars 2009, une mesure qui n'affecte cependant pas l'action humanitaire européenne dans ce pays. "L'UE considère que le transfert par la force du pouvoir survenu à Madagascar le 17 mars 2009 constitue une violation flagrante de la démocratie et de l'Etat de droit", souligne un texte adopté en marge d'une réunion des ministres européens des Affaires intérieures à Luxembourg. Les mesures décidées jeudi ont pour effet de suspendre tout appui budgétaire accordé à Madagascar, ainsi que l'affectation de nouveaux moyens financiers au titre du 10e Fonds européen de développement. Elles n'affectent pas en revanche l'aide humanitaire et d'urgence ni certains projets bénéficiant directement à la population. Elles resteront en vigueur pendant douze mois. L'UE avait ouvert des "consultations" sur le sujet qu'elle a décidé jeudi de clore. "La partie malgache n'a pas formulé de proposition satisfaisante" au cours des consultations avec l'UE, déplore le texte adopté jeudi. Et "aucun consensus n'a été dégagé concernant la mise en oeuvre des accords politiques que les mouvements politiques du pays avaient signé l'année dernière. Par contre, les autorités de fait ont unilatéralement annoncé une feuille de route pour la transition", poursuit-il. Jugeant que la feuille de route était "inacceptable", l'UE a décidé jeudi de clore ses consultations. Mais le "dialogue politique" prévu par l'accord de Cotonou continuera, en coordination étroite avec la communauté internationale. Madagascar est plongée dans une nouvelle crise depuis fin 2008. Elle a conduit à l'éviction en mars 2009 de Marc Ravalomanana, qui vit depuis en exil en Afrique du Sud, et à son remplacement par M. Rajoelina, alors soutenu par l'armée. Après des accords signés en 2009 à Maputo et Addis Abeba mais restés lettre morte, une nouvelle tentative de médiation internationale s'est soldée par un échec début mai à Pretoria. Le président du régime en place à Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, a récemment affirmé qu'il ne serait pas candidat à la prochaine élection présidentielle, dont il a annoncé la tenue pour le 26 novembre prochain. Mais il a aussi demandé que les anciens présidents du pays aujourd'hui dans l'opposition ne soient pas davantage candidats à la présidentielle. Dans le cas où une "solution consensuelle pour un retour à l'ordre constitutionnel" puisse être trouvée, l'UE se réserve le droit de modifier ses mesures et "d'apporter son appui à une telle évolution", précise le texte adopté jeudi.

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