



## MEMORANDUM N° 164/2010

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To all EBCAM Members

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### **ONE)- CATHERINE ASHTON APPOINTS TWO NEW MANAGING DIRECTORS FOR THE EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission, today appointed Hugues Mingarelli as Managing Director for the Middle East and Southern Neighbourhood and Viorel Isticioaia Budura as Managing Director for Asia in the new European External Action Service (EEAS).

Hugues Mingarelli is currently Deputy Director General in DG RELEX of the European Commission, responsible for relations with the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy. He has 25 years' experience in External Relations and Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Viorel Isticioaia Budura has been Romania's Ambassador to China since 2002, with previous experience in senior positions in the Romanian Foreign Service in Korea and Japan. His previous experience includes responsibility for relations with the UN and other international organisations and as Director of the office of the Romanian Prime Minister.

### **TWO)- SETTING-UP OF THE EEAS: TRANSFER OF STAFF ON 1 JANUARY 2011**

The European External Action Service will enter a new phase on 1 January 2011 with the transfer of staff from Council and Commission. Altogether 1643 permanent officials will be transferred to the new service, bringing on board a huge expertise and experience. With this transfer the EEAS, launched on 1 December 2010, will fully come into being. .

The transfer will happen on the basis of the Council Decision of 26 July 2010 on the establishment, and functioning of the EEAS as well as the amended Staff and Financial Regulations and the 2011 EU budget.

On the Commission side the transfer will include a majority of staff from DG External Relations (RELEX), which will cease to exist, and part of the DG Development (DEV), where its remaining part will be merged with DG External Cooperation Programmes (AIDCO) into DG Development Cooperation (DEVCO). In the Council Secretariat staff currently working in DG External and Politico-Military Affairs will be transferred.

<b>Transfer of posts: Commission Brussels RELEX</b>	<b>Transfer of posts: Commission Brussels DEV</b>	<b>Transfer of posts: Commission Delegations RELEX</b>	<b>Transfer of posts: Council</b>	<b>New posts 2010/2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>585</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1643</b>

*\* non-permanent staff from the Commission and the Council will also be transferred*

In order to assure a smooth transfer of staff a provisional organisational structure was established for the EEAS. This organisational structure will be fine-tuned and improved in the course of 2011. The senior management of the EEAS will be looking for efficiencies in this process to allow the EEAS to deliver a better service within current resources. The service will initially be housed in existing Council and Commission buildings.

### **THREE)- EU TO OBSERVE THE SOUTH SUDAN REFERENDUM**

The European Union has today deployed an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the Southern Sudan Referendum, scheduled to take place between 9 and 15 January 2011.

Led by Véronique de Keyser, a Member of the European Parliament, the 110 observers will assess the Referendum process all over Sudan, including polling, counting and tabulation of the results, as well as the post-referendum period.

The first wave of experts and Long-Term observers arrived in Sudan in November to observe the Voter Registration exercise – the first time the EU has assessed this part of the process. They have now been joined by more analysts and Long-Term Observers. A group of Short-Term observers will deploy nearer the polling period. In addition, the mission will be reinforced by a delegation of Members of the European Parliament.

The mission will present a preliminary report including comprehensive recommendations, based on exhaustive facts and information, shortly after polling, and then a Final Report once the entire process is over. The mission will stay in the country for several weeks after polling takes place.

The EU also contributed €6m to referendum-related issues. Following the signature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, an amount of €665m was provided by the EU in development aid in addition to €779m in humanitarian aid since 2003.

### **FOUR)- OBAMA STRESSES PRIORITY TO SUDAN**

President Barack Obama has written to leaders in the region stressing U.S. commitment to a peaceful vote, the White House said on Sunday. “President Obama has made it clear that Sudan is one of the administration’s top priorities; we have a vision of hope, peace and prosperity for the people of Sudan,” said White House National Security Council spokesman Mike Hammer. Confirming Obama had written to a number of leaders about the referendum and the situation in Darfur, Hammer said this was part of an ongoing diplomatic push to emphasize the importance that Washington places on Sudan. The letters were sent recently, Hammer said. “We have, and will continue to, put an enormous amount of effort towards ensuring that the referendum goes off on time, peacefully, and that the results are respected,” Hammer said. The White House last week condemned attacks on civilians in South Sudan which the southern ruling party, the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, blame on the north.

### **FIVE)- SUDAN WOULD BOOST ISLAMIC LAW IF SOUTH SECEDES**

Sudan will adopt an Islamic constitution if the south splits away in a referendum next month, President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said on Sunday. The vote on independence for south Sudan is scheduled to start in three weeks and was promised in a 2005 peace deal that ended a civil war between the mainly Muslim north and the south, where most follow traditional beliefs and Christianity. “If south Sudan secedes, we will change the constitution and at that time there will be no time to speak of diversity of culture and ethnicity,” the president told supporters at a rally in the eastern city of Gedaref. “Sharia (Islamic law) and Islam will be the main source for the constitution, Islam the official religion and Arabic the official language,” he said. An official from south Sudan’s main party criticised Bashir’s stance, saying it would encourage discrimination against minorities in the north and deepen the country’s international isolation. Yasir Arman, from the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), said Bashir’s statements would encourage repression in the north. “This type of discourse is preparing the ground for a police state. The north, whether alone or with the south, is an extremely diverse place.” Arman said it was the north’s hardline stance that had pushed southerners towards separation. “If it (the north) continues like this it will encourage other areas like Darfur, the Nuba mountains and eastern Sudan to walk out as well,” he added, referring to areas on the peripheries of northern Sudan. Bashir’s speech

coincided with Independence celebrations in the capital where hundreds of marching soldiers and police put on a show of strength. Vice president Ali Osman Mohamed Taha said Sudan was ready to deal with insecurity during and after the referendum and the authorities would take action against anyone stockpiling goods to take advantage of recent price rises. Floggings carried out under Islamic law are almost a daily punishment in northern Sudan for crimes including drinking alcohol and adultery.

#### **SIX)- EGYPTIAN, LIBYAN LEADERS IN KHARTOUM TOMORROW**

Les dirigeants égyptien Hosni Moubarak et libyen Mouammar Kadhafi se rendront mardi à Khartoum pour des entretiens avec le président soudanais Omar el-Béchir, dont le pays risque la partition, a annoncé dimanche l'agence officielle Suna. Les deux chefs d'Etat discuteront avec Omar el-Béchir des « événements actuels dans le pays » et de « l'importance des relations » entre ces trois Etats voisins, souligne l'agence nationale soudanaise Suna dans une dépêche laconique. Le Soudan risque la partition à l'issue du référendum d'indépendance du Sud du pays le 9 janvier. Les Sud-Soudanais doivent en effet choisir entre le maintien de l'unité avec le reste du Soudan ou la sécession. Ce scrutin est le point d'orgue de l'accord de paix global ayant mis fin en 2005 à plus de deux décennies de guerre civile entre le Nord, musulman, et le Sud, en grande partie chrétien, un conflit ayant fait environ deux millions de morts. Selon l'agence égyptienne Mena, Hosni Moubarak s'est entretenu dimanche au téléphone avec le numéro un libyen Mouammar Kadhafi des « derniers développements au Soudan ». L'agence officielle égyptienne n'a toutefois pas fait mention d'une visite de M. Moubarak chez son voisin soudanais.

#### **SEVEN)- UN FEARS MASS MIGRATION IF SUDAN VOTE SPARKS WAR**

Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese may flee to neighbouring countries if fighting breaks out after southern Sudan holds a referendum on secession next month, according to a United Nations assessment. The plebiscite, promised in a 2005 peace deal that ended decades of civil war, is scheduled for Jan. 9 and political analysts say the south is likely to vote to separate. Some analysts say disputes over oil regions and other issues could reignite conflict after the vote. Contingency plans drawn up by the Office of the UNHCR suggest up to 100,000 southern Sudanese could be displaced to Uganda, 100,000 to Kenya, 80,000 to Ethiopia and 50,000 to Egypt in 2011 if war breaks out after southern independence. "We hope that nothing will happen ... but indeed it's felt that some forms of displacement may happen from Southern Sudan into the neighbouring countries of asylum," Mohamed Dayri, regional UNHCR representative, said in an interview. Security problems after the referendum might push some of the roughly 1.5 million Southern Sudanese living in and around the Sudanese capital Khartoum to flee north to Egypt, he said. Egyptian officials have suggested a big influx of migrants might be unwelcome in a country already home to tens of thousands of refugees and whose own growing population has strained infrastructure and social services. In 2005, Egyptian police killed more than two dozen Sudanese when they broke up a sit-in by asylum seekers demanding resettlement in the West. Egypt hosts about 18,000 registered Southern Sudanese refugees, many displaced during decades of civil war in which an estimated 2 million people were killed and 4 million fled, destabilising much of east Africa. Dayri said the UNHCR was preparing to issue an appeal next month to raise money for the possible costs of dealing with potential displacement after the referendum. "We hope that an all-out war wouldn't happen in Sudan, because this is the worst scenario that we could contemplate," he said. "But most likely, forms of displacement may happen within Southern Sudan, from Southern Sudan into the neighbouring countries of asylum, and maybe from Khartoum to Southern Sudan and to neighbouring countries like Eritrea or Egypt."

#### **EIGHT)- DARFUR REBELS RESUME CEASEFIRE TALKS WITH SUDAN**

Darfur's rebel Justice and Equality Movement has restarted ceasefire talks with Sudan's government, seven months after it walked out of the tortuous peace process, mediators and rebels said on Monday. JEM, seen as Darfur's most militarily powerful insurgent group, told Reuters it might consider a cessation of hostilities if Khartoum released political prisoners and made other commitments. "We have not been having face-to-face meetings but we are exchanging proposals with the mediation... We are not talking about a final agreement. Now we are discussing the issue of a cessation of hostilities," said JEM's London-based spokesman, Ahmed Hussein Adam. The seven-year conflict in Sudan's remote western Darfur region has been punctuated by a

string of broken ceasefires and failed negotiations. High-profile campaigns by U.S. lobbies, activists and diplomatic pressure from Washington have not succeeded in ending the violence, which has been complicated by a rise in kidnappings, tribal clashes and bandit attacks. JEM suspended its participation in talks in the Qatari capital Doha in early May, saying Khartoum had broken an earlier ceasefire and objecting to its decision to hold talks with other insurgent groups. Adam said JEM had returned to Doha after the joint U.N./African Union mediators promised to deal with some of their concerns about how the talks were held and hosted. He said JEM also wanted assurances that Khartoum would protect civilians and give aid groups a freer rein in Darfur. The mediators, headed by former Burkina Faso foreign minister Djibril Bassole, released a statement urging both JEM and the government to agree a ceasefire by the end of the year. JEM was one of two rebel groups that took up arms against the government in 2003, accusing it of marginalising the region. Darfur's rebel Sudan Liberation Army, loyal to Abdel Wahed al-Nur, is boycotting all negotiations.

#### **NINE)- 55.000 SOUTH SUDANESE BACK TO THEIR REGION AHEAD OF SECESSION REFERENDUM**

Quelque 55.000 Sud-Soudanais déplacés au Nord-Soudan sont revenus ces dernières semaines dans leur région d'origine en vue du référendum du 9 janvier sur l'indépendance du Sud-Soudan, a indiqué mardi le Haut commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés.

#### **TEN)- CLASH BETWEEN SOUTH SUDAN ARMY AND RENEGADES KILL 14**

Forces loyal to a renegade south Sudanese general clashed with government troops, killing at least 14 people, the southern army said on Tuesday. General George Athor rebelled after losing elections in April for the governorship of the oil-producing south's Jonglei state, raising tensions ahead of a referendum next month. South Sudan's leader Salva Kiir offered a pardon to Athor in October and both sides had agreed to keep out of each other's way until negotiations were concluded. "George Athor's forces laid an ambush for an SPLA (southern army) company in Pigi county in Jonglei state," said southern army spokesman Philip Aguer, adding that the attack took place early on Saturday. "This happened in the middle of talks with George Athor. But this incident will be treated separately and amnesty negotiations will continue." Aguer did not have information on what caused the attack and Athor did not answer calls to his satellite phone. Aguer said some southern soldiers were among the dead and injured but did not have figures and details of the clash were still emerging from the remote area. "We are still investigating ... At least 14 people were killed, maybe more," he said. French oil group Total holds a largely unexplored concession in Jonglei. Kiir said he was offering the pardon to Athor and other rebellious militia leaders to give the region a fresh start ahead of the referendum. The north-south civil war also saw fighting between rival southern clans and militias and there have been fears these could re-emerge in the uncertainty surrounding the plebiscite.

#### **ELEVEN)- FRANCE, UN REJECT GBAGBO DEMAND TO QUIT IVORY COAST**

France joined the United Nations on Sunday in rejecting a demand by Laurent Gbagbo to quit Ivory Coast and stepped up calls for him to stand down as president after a disputed poll or face sanctions. The world's top cocoa grower is locked in a dispute over a Nov. 28 presidential vote that both Gbagbo and rival Alassane Ouattara say they won. Ouattara's claim is backed by numerous foreign governments and the U.N. Security Council. Gbagbo's government on Saturday issued a demand for the United Nations and France to withdraw their forces from the country, but the world body made clear its 10,000 troops would remain and Paris said its 900-plus forces would stay too. "That would make no sense at all either for UNOCI (UN force) or France," Foreign Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said in an interview with French media TV5, RFI and Le Monde. "If they are directly attacked ... there is the right of legitimate defence," she said, while stressing there were no plans to become directly involved in fighting between pro-Gbagbo and pro-Ouattara forces which last week waged gun battles. Alliot-Marie reaffirmed that Gbagbo would face international sanctions if he did not step down. French President Nicholas Sarkozy has said EU measures such as travel bans and asset freezes on him and his entourage could be launched within days. Gbagbo controls the army and key state institutions and his camp has rejected calls for him to quit as outside meddling. **BATTLE-READY** His newly-named youth minister, Charles Ble Goude, told a rally of the fervently pro-Gbagbo Young Patriots movement that the sovereignty of the West African nation was at stake. "Be ready for the battle. When you go home, tell your brother, your sister, your husband, that they should prepare to liberate their country," he told the rally in an

Abidjan suburb close to the French military base. Election commission results showed Ouattara won by nearly 8 percentage points. But Gbagbo claimed victory and is backed by the pro-Gbagbo Constitutional Council, which erased nearly half a million votes in Ouattara strongholds, alleging fraud. The United Nations, France, the United States, the European Union, the African Union and West African regional bloc ECOWAS have urged Gbagbo to admit defeat and accept an offer of exile. "That is unimaginable," Gbagbo aide Pascal Affi N'Guessan told Reuters in an interview. "Everyone involved in this crisis needs to exclude this hypothesis of Gbagbo leaving." Ouattara says he will only agree to examine compromise solutions if Gbagbo first accepts to step down. **OVER 50 DEAD** The U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay said there was evidence of "massive" violations by Ivorian security forces and estimated that more than 50 people had been killed in the past few days. Ouattara's camp and local rights groups say death squads have been hunting down his supporters and killing them. "When people are victims of extrajudicial killings there must be an investigation," Pillay said. People had been abducted and later "found dead in questionable circumstances," she said. Gbagbo's government has denied using excessive force to put down protests on Thursday called by Ouattara allies in a failed attempt to seize the state broadcaster building. Over 4,000 people have already crossed over into Liberia and some 200 into Guinea since last month's election, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said, adding that it was making contingency plans for a possible greater exodus. Guinea's President-elect Alpha Conde called on the national army to step up monitoring of their 500-km (300-mile) border. "We must welcome our brothers but we should also make sure that no refugee enters Guinea with a weapon," he told state TV.

#### **TWELVE)- EU SANCTIONS ON IVORY COAST TO HIT GBAGBO AND 18 OTHER OFFICIALS**

L'Union européenne a décidé lundi de sanctionner Laurent Gbagbo, son épouse ainsi que 17 autres proches, en les privant de visas d'entrée sur son territoire, face au refus du président ivoirien auto-proclamé de quitter le pouvoir. Un accord sur ce sujet a été trouvé à Bruxelles entre des représentants des 27 pays de l'Union européenne, réunis au sein de deux groupes d'experts sur l'Afrique et sur les Relations extérieures. « Il y a 19 noms sur la liste (des personnes visées par les sanctions), et cela inclut le président Gbagbo », a déclaré la porte-parole de la chef de la diplomatie européenne Catherine Ashton, Maja Kocijancic. « Sa femme aussi », Simone, y figure, a-t-elle ajouté lors d'un point de presse, confirmant des informations données préalablement par des sources diplomatiques. Pour entrer en vigueur, la décision doit encore être validée formellement d'ici mercredi en milieu de journée (délai de 48 heures) par les gouvernements européens par le biais d'une procédure écrite. Les capitales doivent confirmer par lettre qu'elles sont bien d'accord. Ces sanctions de l'UE concernent d'une part des restrictions sur l'octroi de visas, d'autre part des gels d'avoirs. « Dans un premier temps, il a été décidé d'imposer les seules interdictions de visas car c'est plus simple à mettre en place. Les gels d'avoirs viendront mais la procédure est plus lourde » à mettre en place, a affirmé un diplomate européen. Vendredi, lors de leur sommet, les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de l'UE avaient publié une déclaration commune appelant l'armée ivoirienne à se placer sous l'autorité du « président démocratiquement élu » Alassane Ouattara. Ils avaient aussi réaffirmé « la détermination de l'UE à prendre des mesures ciblées contre qui voudraient continuer à empêcher le respect de la volonté exprimée par le peuple ivoirien ». En Côte d'Ivoire, des violences ont éclaté entre partisans de Laurent Gbagbo et d'Alassane Ouattara, les deux hommes qui se disputent la présidence depuis le scrutin du 28 novembre. M. Ouattara est soutenu par la communauté internationale, dont l'Union européenne. Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies doit se réunir lundi pour évoquer la situation dans le pays et le renouvellement du mandat des 10.000 Casques bleus de l'Onuci, la force menant son opération sur place, qui expire le 31 décembre et dont Laurent Gbagbo demande le retrait. L'ONU a rejeté cette exigence.

#### **THIRTEEN)- UN CHIEF IN IVORY COAST DENOUNCES 'HOSTILE ACTS'**

Le chef de l'Opération de l'ONU en Côte d'Ivoire (Onuci), Choi Young-Jin, a dénoncé lundi l'accroissement des « actes hostiles » commis depuis le 15 décembre « par le camp du président Gbagbo ».

#### FOURTEEN)- **GBAGBO ALLIES “READY TO DIE” IN IVORY COAST FIGHT**

Supporters Laurent Gbagbo have vowed to fight to the death to keep him as president as pressure grows for him to quit, and his rival's camp urged the U.N. to do more to protect civilians. Around 5,000 Ivorians have already fled to neighbouring countries as concerns grow that an election designed to draw a line under a 2002-2003 civil war will instead destabilise the world's top cocoa grower and a fragile region. Both the European Union and the United States have warned Gbagbo that he and his entourage could face sanctions such as travel bans and asset freezes within days if he does not step down, but his camp has dismissed the threats as meddling. “We have a sole battle: to ensure our dignity, our country's sovereignty is respected. It is up to us to choose our president,” Young Patriots' leader Charles Ble Goude told a rally of the fervently pro-Gbagbo youth movement late on Sunday. “This battle that we began in 2002 –we are ready to die for it,” said Ble Goude, who was named this month as Gbagbo's youth minister and who has been on a U.N. sanctions list since 2006 for making public statements advocating violence. Gbagbo's government called on U.N. and French troops to quit the country on Saturday, accusing them of interference in the country's internal affairs, but U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and France have defied the call and said they will stay. “The U.N. don't recognise his authority,” Patrick Achi, a spokesman for Ouattara's rival government, told Reuters by telephone. “There is one president, Ouattara, and he sent a letter to Ban Ki-moon asking him to maintain forces here until the peace process is over.”

**IMMINENT THREAT** Referring to clashes between the Young Patriots and the French military operation, known as Licorne, in 2004 that led to evacuations of thousands of expatriates, Goude told his supporters: “Licorne and us, we know each other. They've got our calling card. Its UNOCI that doesn't have it yet,” he said of the 10,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission.

**TALKS ON UN MANDATE** Talks are scheduled in the U.N. Security Council on Monday on a new mandate for the U.N. force, whose current role allowing it to protect civilians under “imminent threat” of violence runs out on Dec. 31. “I am in no doubt that it will be renewed,” said Achi. “The question is... will they change it to an intervention mandate to support the president –that's what we are asking for.” He added that he hoped they would get a mandate to pursue offensive operations against Ivorian troops committing abuses, as they can against militia groups in Congo. An attempt by Ouattara supporters last week to seize the state TV building ended in bloodshed as pro-Gbagbo forces used live rounds to put down the protest. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay cited on Sunday evidence of “massive” violations in Ivory Coast, saying over 50 people had been killed in the previous three days and raising concern over reports of deaths in detention. “When people are victims of extrajudicial killings there must be an investigation, and there must be accountability,” Pillay said in a statement. Gbagbo's government has denied using excessive force to put down last week's protests and says some protesters were armed.

#### FIFTEEN)- **UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEFIES GBAGBO, EXTENDS IVORY COAST MISSION**

The U.N. Security Council extended its peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast on Monday, hours after the United Nations' top envoy in the West African country said armed men had been threatening staff in their homes. Incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo's refusal to concede defeat in last month's election and his demand that peacekeepers leave have raised fears that U.N. personnel and other foreigners could be targeted in violence. Over the weekend, masked gunmen opened fire on the U.N. base there, though no one from the global body was harmed in the attack. Two military observers were wounded in another attack. «Armed men have been coming to the personal houses of United Nations employees, asking them to leave and searching their houses under the pretext of looking for arms,» U.N. Special Representative Choi Young-jin said at a news conference in Abidjan. A spokesman for Gbagbo in Paris on Monday said he doubted soldiers or those supporting Gbagbo would be involved in such tactics. Gbagbo has ordered the U.N. peacekeeping force to leave Ivory Coast, claiming it is biased in favour of opposition leader Alassane Ouattara. The U.N. and the international community recognize Ouattara as the victor of last month's presidential runoff vote. The U.N. has refused to leave, and the Security Council resolution adopted unanimously Monday extended the mandate of the 8,650-strong force until June 30, 2011. «Members of the Security Council warn all stakeholders that they will be held accountable for attacks against civilians and peacekeepers and will be brought to justice in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law,» said a statement read at the end of the meeting by U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice, the current council president. The council also extended the temporary deployment of up to 500 additional personnel until March 31, and extends by four weeks the temporary redeployment of three infantry companies and an aviation unit from Liberia to Ivory Coast. The council resolution stepped up pressure on Gbagbo to concede defeat, and urged all Ivorian parties and stakeholders «to respect the will of the people and the outcome of the election» in view of the recognition

of Ouattara by the African Union and the West African regional group ECOWAS. Gbagbo accuses the U.N. mission of backing Ouattara and arming rebels who support him. About 800 U.N. peacekeepers are protecting the hotel from which Ouattara is trying to govern the country. They are, in turn, encircled by Gbagbo's troops. On Monday, the U.N. said the hotel had been completely blockaded and that people inside had not been able to get needed medication. Meanwhile, the European Union said Monday it would impose an assets freeze and a visa ban on Gbagbo and his wife after a Sunday deadline for him to step down elapsed. Gbagbo's adviser said Europe should not interfere. «Europe must understand that this is not the colonial period,» said Alain, Gbagbo's adviser for EU relations. «Or if Europe wants to colonize Ivory Coast, if Europe wants to subdue Ivory Coast, then let's be clear about it and we'll become European citizens.»

#### **SIXTEEN) – COMMISSION ALLOCATES €5 MILLION TO HELP PEOPLE THREATENED BY TURMOIL IN THE IVORY COAST**

The European Commission has prepared an aid package of € 5 million to respond to the complex humanitarian crisis in the Ivory Coast. The new funding decision will concentrate relief efforts on 100 thousand people, improving their safety and ensuring their access to health services, water, food, sanitation and shelter.

To this date, turmoil has caused large-scale displacement in the Ivory Coast. Over 11,000 refugees have been registered in neighbouring countries, mainly Liberia, Guinea and Ghana.

#### **SEVENTEEN) – HOW MUCH PRESSURE IS INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY READY TO PUT ON IVORY COAST'S GBAGBO ?**

Rarely have world powers and neighbours piled so much concerted pressure on an African leader to quit as Laurent Gbagbo faces after an Ivory Coast poll he is almost universally judged to have lost. But with Gbagbo determined to stay in power, the stand-off is becoming a test of how far the world is prepared to go to resolve the type of election dispute that has plagued African politics for decades. "The level of consensus is unprecedented," Rolake Akinola of political risk consultancy VoxFrontier said of the endorsement by the United Nations, African leaders, Washington and Europe of Gbagbo's rival Alassane Ouattara as winner. "It will make others elsewhere think hard about what they are going to do," she said. Suspensions of Ivory Coast by the ECOWAS West African bloc and the African Union suggest Gbagbo –who already had few natural allies in his neighbourhood- has been frozen out by peers more completely than even Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe. Defying his demand that the 10,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force leave, the U.N. Security Council this week extended its mandate for another six months and France is also keeping its 950-strong force in place. The IMF has said it can only work with a UN-recognised government and donors such as the African Development Bank and World Bank have put programmes under review, potentially depriving Gbagbo of debt relief and lending. European Union countries have agreed travel bans on Gbagbo, his powerful wife Simone and 17 officials. The United States is looking at a move that could even mean the children of Ivorian officials are ejected from U.S. schools. But so far Gbagbo appears unmoved, at least officially. A personal telephone call and letter from Barack Obama have gone unanswered, while Gbagbo's interior minister said simply of the EU sanctions: "They make us smile." "Ouattara may have the moral high ground, but Gbagbo has all the levers of power," Stratfor analyst Mark Schroeder said. He still controls the army, state broadcaster, the bulk of cocoa output and the country's two main ports. Views differ on how the coming weeks and months could play out – assuming all-out civil war does not happen first.

**MESSY OUTCOME** Starving Gbagbo's government of external funds could stir discontent in the army and civil service if wages do not get paid. Ivorian diplomats and other officials will consider the risk to their reputation of being allied to a pariah regime. Which way the Senegal-based BCEAO regional bank – the central bank of the West African franc monetary zone – swings could be vital. Ouattara has asked it to recognise only his parallel administration as a signatory to transactions. But so far, the Bank appears to be sitting on the fence. "If the pressure is kept up, sooner or later the (Gbagbo) administration will start to get squeezed," said Akinola, suggesting things could get tougher for Gbagbo as time goes on. Others are less convinced but acknowledge that a next possible step –a sanctions regime on the cocoa industry that supplies around 40 percent of the world market- is risky. "Sanction of the cocoa sector could backfire, both on the global markets as well as a prospective Ouattara government," said African security adviser J. Peter Pham, noting the risk that it could turn cocoa farmers strongly against Ouattara. But if there is little international appetite for a cocoa embargo that would deny a poor country of a major export earner –and possibly entail major humanitarian consequences- there is even less support for armed intervention. An

African Union-led military intervention in the Indian Ocean islands of the Comoros in 2008 to oust the presidential claimant after an illegal election is not seen setting a viable precedent for similar action in 20-million-head Ivory Coast. If the crisis drags on, the likelihood could grow of talks on possible power-sharing deal, despite the reluctance of the AU and ECOWAS to accept a route followed by Kenya and Zimbabwe after similar disputes. With 2011 due to see elections in Nigeria, Congo, Cameroon, Zambia, Uganda and elsewhere, such a messy outcome is not the best encouragement to Africans who long for the chance to choose their leaders through the ballot box.

#### **EIGHTEEN) – GBAGBO INVITES INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF ELECTION**

Ivory Coast's incumbent leader Laurent Gbagbo said on Tuesday he would be willing to have an international committee re-examine the results of a disputed election to avoid another civil war. Gbagbo said in an address on state television the review committee could be headed by the African Union and also involve the West African organisation ECOWAS, the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, Russia and China.

#### **NINETEEN) – NIGERIA EVACUATES DIPLOMATS FROM IVORY COAST**

Nigeria has evacuated all its diplomats from the Ivory Coast and will bring out its other citizens there after its embassy was attacked, the government said on Tuesday. "We had to evacuate all our diplomats because our embassy in Cote d'Ivoire was attacked," Nigerian foreign minister Foreign Minister Odein Ajumogobia told reporters. "Arrangements are also being made to evacuate Nigerian citizens in that country."

#### **TWENTY) – GBAGBO OFFERS TO TALK TO OUATTARA**

Laurent Gbagbo a réaffirmé mardi soir qu'il était le « président » de la Côte d'Ivoire mais s'est dit prêt à discuter avec son rival Alassane Ouattara et la communauté internationale qui le soutient, pour sortir d'une crise qui a fait au moins 50 morts selon l'ONU. « Je suis le président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire », a déclaré Gbagbo dans son premier discours depuis son investiture le 4 décembre, diffusé sur la radio-télévision d'Etat RTI, un pilier de son régime. « Je ne veux pas que le sang d'un seul Ivoirien soit versé. Je ne veux pas d'une guerre en Côte d'Ivoire qui peut s'étendre aux pays voisins ou les affaiblir », a cependant affirmé Gbagbo. Il s'est dit disposé à « accueillir un comité d'évaluation sur la crise post-électorale » qui « aura pour mission d'analyser objectivement les faits et le processus électoral, pour un règlement pacifique de la crise ». « Je tends la main du dialogue. Je tends la main à l'opposition, à M. Ouattara et à la rébellion armée (Forces nouvelles, FN) qui le soutient », a-t-il lancé. Il les a exhortés à quitter l'hôtel du Golf d'Abidjan, qui leur sert de quartier général, pour « regagner leurs domiciles », alors que l'établissement est soumis à un blocus des forces fidèles à Gbagbo depuis plusieurs jours. En signe de détente avant Noël, l'armée loyale au président sortant a annoncé dans la foulée la levée dès ce mardi du couvre-feu nocturne instauré à la veille du scrutin. Plus tôt, le gouvernement Ouattara dirigé par le chef des FN Guillaume Soro avait montré qu'il n'entendait pas céder, appelant le peuple à « la désobéissance » au gouvernement « factice » de Gbagbo.

#### **TWENTY ONE) – EU ENDORSES SANCTIONS AGAINST IVORY COAST'S GBAGBO**

L'Union européenne a entériné mercredi des sanctions contre le président ivoirien autoproclamé Laurent Gbagbo et 18 membres de son entourage et envisage d'élargir prochainement la liste, selon des sources diplomatiques. Les interdictions de visa en Europe avaient déjà été décidées lundi dans leur principe au niveau des experts. Elles ont été formellement approuvées mercredi à l'issue d'une « procédure écrite » dans le cadre de laquelle les 27 gouvernements de l'UE ont dû confirmer leur accord par courrier. Ces mesures devraient être suivies prochainement de gel des avoirs des personnes visées. L'Europe, qui reconnaît avec la communauté internationale Alassane Ouattara comme président légitime depuis le scrutin du 28 novembre, a choisi de viser des « durs » du régime de Laurent Gbagbo en Côte d'Ivoire, épargnant pour l'heure d'importantes personnalités au profil moins controversé. Mais mardi, « les ambassadeurs des 27 à Bruxelles ont déjà commencé à discuter d'élargir la liste », a indiqué à l'AFP une source diplomatique. **TWO WIVES**

**INCLUDED IN LIST** Dans l'immédiat, parmi les personnes sanctionnées figurent l'épouse légale de M. Gbagbo, Simone, ainsi que son épouse coutumière Nadiana –dite « Nady »- Bamba, épousée selon la tradition malinké (nord), ainsi que des membres du premier cercle du pouvoir. Désiré Tagro, ex-ministre de l'Intérieur devenu secrétaire général de la présidence, considéré comme un influent conseiller de M. Gbagbo, Pierre Brou Amessan, patron de la radio-télévision d'Etat RTI, sont sur la liste. Ils y côtoient le chef de la Garde républicaine, le général Dogbo Blé, et celui du Cecos (unités spéciales), le général de gendarmerie Georges Guiai Bi Poin, qui sont accusés par les pro-Ouattara d'être derrière certaines des exactions rapportées ces derniers jours par l'ONU notamment. Les 19 sanctionnés s'ajoutent à trois autres qui sont depuis 2006 visés par un gel d'avoirs et des interdictions de séjour dans la foulée de sanctions de l'ONU. Parmi eux : Charles Blé Goudé, dirigeant des Jeunes patriotes (COJEP) et nouveau ministre de la Jeunesse et de l'Emploi. Le chef d'état-major de l'armée, le général Philippe Mangou, et le patron de la gendarmerie, le général Edouard Kassaraté, sont en revanche pour le moment épargnés. Selon un diplomate européen impliqué dans les discussions sur la Côte d'Ivoire à Bruxelles, l'UE a cherché dans l'immédiat à se concentrer sur des sanctions « ciblées ». Il faut avant tout « trouver une porte de sortie politique » et voir « comment empêcher un nouveau Zimbabwe » en Afrique, dit-il, en référence à la posture de défi adoptée par Robert Mugabe à l'égard de la communauté internationale, et son isolement. En outre, pour l'Europe, « il faut éviter d'avoir dans l'ouest de l'Afrique un pays qui menace de se diviser avec la Côte d'Ivoire, pendant qu'en Afrique de l'Est le Soudan est au bord de la partition », estime-t-il. L'UE « espère qu'avec des sanctions ciblées, on pourra influencer – non pas sur Gbagbo et son épouse, car on sait que ça n'aura pas d'effet – mais sur des éléments dans l'armée par exemple, en faisant vaciller le pouvoir », a-t-il précisé. Une évacuation totale du pays par les Européens et l'ONU n'est, pour le moment, pas à l'ordre du jour, selon ce diplomate, car cela « voudrait dire qu'on laisse la Côte d'Ivoire à Gbagbo ».

#### TWENTY TWO) – **WORLD BANK CUTS FINANCING TO IVORY COAST**

The World Bank has frozen financing for the Ivory Coast, the bank's president Robert Zoellick said on Wednesday, as the international community puts pressure on Laurent Gbagbo to step down as president. "They have already been frozen," Zoellick told reporters, asked about World Bank loans to Ivory Coast, which is locked in a standoff over a contested presidential election result. Zoellick was in Paris for meetings with President Nicolas Sarkozy and Economy Minister Christine Lagarde.

#### TWENTY THREE) – **FRANCE ASKS ITS CITIZENS TO LEAVE IVORY COAST**

Paris recommande à « tous les Français qui le peuvent de quitter provisoirement la Côte d'Ivoire », a déclaré mercredi le porte-parole du gouvernement français, François Baroin, invoquant une « mesure de précaution » et de « prudence ». A propos de la crise ivoirienne qui s'est déclenchée après le second tour de l'élection présidentielle le 28 novembre, il a évoqué « des sources d'inquiétude indiscutables ». « Bien que les ressortissants étrangers ne soient pas menacés jusqu'à présent il nous paraît nécessaire de renouveler de prudence, nous réitérons donc notre conseil consistant à différer les projets de voyage vers la Côte d'Ivoire », a déclaré François Baroin. « Nous réitérons en outre notre recommandation aux Français sur place de se conformer aux consignes de prudence (...) et par mesure de précaution nous recommandons enfin à tous les Français qui le peuvent de quitter provisoirement la Côte d'Ivoire dans l'attente d'une normalisation de la situation », a-t-il ajouté. Interrogé lors d'un point-presse, le porte-parole du ministère français des Affaires étrangères, Bernard Valero, a indiqué que « le nombre de Français en Côte d'Ivoire est estimé à 14.000 dont la moitié ont la double nationalité ». « Nous estimons à environ 1.500 ceux de nos compatriotes qui ont quitté le pays en cette période de fin d'année », a-t-il précisé. Nicolas Sarkozy a tenu mercredi matin une réunion sur la situation en Côte d'Ivoire, avec le Premier ministre François Fillon ainsi que les ministres Michèle Alliot-Marie (Affaires étrangères), Alain Juppé (Défense), François Baroin (Budget) et le chef d'état-major des armées, l'amiral Edouard Guillaud.

#### TWENTY FOUR ) – **GERMANY ASKS ITS CITIZENS TO LEAVE IVORY COAST**

Berlin « recommande aux ressortissants allemands de quitter la Côte d'Ivoire » et déconseille les voyages vers ce pays, a annoncé mercredi le ministère des Affaires étrangères.

## TWENTY FIVE) - OUATTARA REJECTS GBAGBO OFFER

Ivory Coast's presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara rejected on Wednesday the incumbent leader's offer of an international investigation into a disputed election as a political "game". Laurent Gbagbo on Tuesday invited an international committee to re-examine the results of the presidential election of Nov. 28 to prevent a bitter power struggle with his rival from escalating into civil war. Gbagbo said the committee could be headed by the African Union and also involve the West African organisation ECOWAS, the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, Russia and China, all of whom have recognised Ouattara as winner. "We've finished with these games," Patrick Achi, a spokesman for Ouattara's rival government told Reuters by phone. "For the past five years, he tried manoeuvres to postpone the elections. Finally, we got there, he lost and he doesn't want to give up power. We don't think he's changed one bit." Diplomats said the offer to submit to an international investigation was a delaying tactic. "I am ... ready to welcome a committee... headed by the African Union, involving ECOWAS, the Arab League, the United Nations, United States, the European Union, Russia and China, which will have permission to analyse objectively the facts of the electoral process ...to solve this crisis peacefully," Gbagbo said in a televised address on Tuesday. Previously, Gbagbo and his supporters had shown no signs of giving any ground on the election they say he won, despite being offered sanctuary in African countries such as Nigeria or South Africa if he steps aside. The U.N. Security Council agreed on Monday to keep 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers in Ivory Coast, defying Gbagbo's demand that they leave. EU countries and the United States imposed a travel ban on Gbagbo, his wife and his allies. U.N. officials have not yet responded to Gbagbo's offer.

## TWENTY SIX) - U.S. DEPRIVES CONGO OF PRIVILEGED TRADE STATUS

Barack Obama a privé la République démocratique du Congo (RDC) d'un statut de partenaire commercial privilégié avec les Etats-Unis, sanctionnant le mauvais bilan de Kinshasa en matière de droits de l'homme, a annoncé mardi la Maison Blanche. M. Obama a pris cette décision à l'occasion de la révision annuelle de la liste du programme Agoa ([Africa Growth and Opportunity Act](#)), imposée par la loi et qui prend en considération les avancées ou les reculs démocratiques des pays africains concernés. "J'ai déterminé que la RDC n'effectuait pas les progrès nécessaires pour répondre aux critères" de l'Agoa, a indiqué M. Obama dans un décret. "J'ai donc décidé de mettre fin à la désignation de la RDC comme pays bénéficiaire" de ce dispositif, a-t-il ajouté, précisant que cette mesure prenait effet le 1er janvier 2011. "Le président Obama a estimé que la RDC n'était pas éligible à recevoir les avantages de l'Agoa en 2011, parce qu'elle a échoué à répondre à ses critères", a expliqué un haut responsable américain à l'AFP. En l'espèce, "les forces de sécurité de la RDC et d'autres groupes armés continuent de commettre des violations des droits de l'homme à grande échelle, en particulier des viols", a souligné ce responsable sous couvert de l'anonymat. De même source, le gouvernement de Kinshasa "n'a pas réagi aux demandes des Etats-Unis et de la communauté internationale pour remédier à cette situation". La version actuelle de l'Agoa a été instaurée par le Congrès américain en 2000. Ce programme établit jusqu'en 2015 une coopération économique et commerciale avec le continent africain. Il facilite les exportations africaines vers les Etats-Unis pour soutenir le développement économique, mais aussi les réformes en Afrique subsaharienne. En décembre 2009, M. Obama avait sanctionné Madagascar, la Guinée et le Niger en les retirant de cette liste, tout en réintégrant la Mauritanie. (See [Presidential Proclamation--Africa Growth and Opportunity Act](#))

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