CLEER's research project ‘Human Security as a new operational framework for enhancing Human Rights protection in the EU's Security & Migration Policies’ aims to promote a new approach to research in EU security policy which integrates elements of EU external action in security, development and migration policy, through the paradigm of human security. The project is supported by the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme. The monthly selection of news items provides an overview of the legal and policy developments in the EU's external action with relevance to the two workshops which have been organised under the project of the Centre:

‘Human security as a tool for a comprehensive approach to human rights and security linkages in EU Foreign policy’
(6 December 2013)

‘Responding to new threats with a human security approach and the EU’s asylum and international protection policy’
(Spring 2014, date to be announced)

**Weeks 9-14/March 2014**

**European Neighbourhood Policy**

27 March
EU’s annual report on the implementation of its Neighbourhood Policy (ENP): taking stock of the challenges

**Eastern Partnership**

17 March
‘The ides of March in the Eastern neighbourhood: An overview’
(In-depth analysis by the EP Directorate-General for External Policies)

**Situation in Ukraine**

2 March
Statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Venizelos concluding his visit to Ukraine

3 March
EU Ministers for Foreign Affairs condemn Russia's actions in Ukraine, call for dialogue and for readiness for further measures at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council

Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on Ukraine

G7 leaders statement condemning the Russian Federation's violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine
Ukraine’s Crimea Envoy asks EU to move beyond solidarity to action

Discussion on Ukraine with Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen: EU united in condemning Russia, claims European Commission (EU policy video by viEUws)

5 March
EU freezes misappropriated Ukrainian state funds

European Commission's proposals for short & medium term economic & financial support for Ukraine

6 March
Extraordinary meeting of EU Heads of State and Government on Ukraine sees Russia's actions condemned and actions agreed

EEAS Factsheet on EU-Ukraine relations

Council Regulation (EU) No 208/2014 of 5 March 2014 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine

7 March
‘Three scenarios for Ukraine’ (EU-ISS Alert by N. Popescu)

12 March
Statement by President Barroso on Ukraine at the European Parliament Plenary Debate

Commissioner for Enlargement and ENP Füle on the Crimea referendum: major threat to the stability of borders in Europe

Invasion of Ukraine by Russia: extracts from the Council and Commission statements (video by EC Audiovisual Services)

G-7 Leaders Statement calling on Russia to cease efforts change the status of Crimea contrary to Ukrainian and International Law

13 March
European Parliament MEPs call on Russia to withdraw military forces from Ukraine

16 March
Joint Statement on Crimea by Presidents of the European Council and Commission, Van Rompuy and Barroso

18 March
Updated EEAS Factsheet on EU-Ukraine relations

19 March
EU/Ukraine: Commission proposes a further €1 billion in macro-financial assistance

20 March
European Council conclusions on Ukraine

21 March
European Council focuses on the Ukraine crisis and further sanctions

Ukraine – Russia: EU should examine every possibility to put an end to present crisis, says Dominique Ristori (EU policy video by viEUws)

24 March
Statement by Commissioner for Enlargement & ENP Füle on Ukraine: Decentralisation and support for the regions an important part of EU help

The Hague Declaration of G7 leaders on Russia and the situation in Ukraine

26 March
Statement by Commissioner for Enlargement & ENP Füle on practical support for urgently needed reforms in Ukraine

Trade and Investment

5 March
EU proposes responsible trading strategy for minerals from conflict zones

FAQ - Responsible sourcing of minerals originating conflict-
CFSP & CSDP

4 March
Council authorises Member States to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty

Speech by President Barroso at high-level conference on strengthening Europe’s security and defence sector

5 March
‘South Sudan: The Roots and Prospects of a Multifaceted Crisis’ (briefing by M. Manrique Gil, EP Directorate-General for External Policies)

6 March
EU approach to global maritime security: new Joint Communication on an EU Maritime Security Strategy

EESC Opinion on the Communication: ‘Towards a more competitive and efficient defence and security sector’

7 March
EU High Representative Ashton decision to deploy an EU Election Assessment Team to observe upcoming elections in Afghanistan

‘CSDP: getting third states on board’ (EU-ISS Brief by T. Tardy)

‘Defence budgets: Europe’s Maginot moment?’ (EU-ISS Brief by O. de France)

9 March
Remarks by EU High Representative Ashton at the end of her visit to Iran

10 March
Council Regulation (EU) No 224/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Central African Republic

11 March

EU provides €4 million to help refugees fleeing violence in Central African Republic

13 March
Statement by EU High Representative Ashton on rocket attacks from Gaza

14 March
‘EU cyber-defence: a work in progress’ (EU-ISS Brief by N. Robinson)

15 March
Statement by EU High Representative Ashton on the 3rd anniversary of the Syrian uprising

17 March
EEAS Factsheet on the Central African Republic: Summary of EU’s response to the crisis

19 March
MEPs and MPs from the ACP-EU Assembly call on UN to beef up peace-keeping efforts in the Central African Republic

21 March
Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE), Brussels, 19 March 2014

23 March
Nuclear Security Summit (EP Research Service briefing)

24 March
Factsheet on the Nuclear Security Summit of 24-25 March: Background & the EU’s role

25 March
EU’s role in nuclear security: speech by President Barroso at the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit
27 March
EU announces some €2 million in support of the fight to eliminate the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in the Central African region

Statement by EU High Representative Ashton on the grave situation in the Central African Republic

Speech by EU High Representative Ashton at the Annual Conference of the European Defence Agency

Development and Cooperation

4 March
Commissioner for Development Piebalgs announces new EU support for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda

6 March
EESC Opinion on ‘Sustainable change in transition societies’ (exploratory opinion)

12 March
Council approves new rules for EU solidarity fund providing financial assistance to member states and candidate countries in the event of natural disasters

EU pledges €3 million increase in humanitarian assistance to Iraq in response to an increase in the numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

13 March
EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Georgieva visits Syrian refugees in Iraq

14 March
European Commission pledges additional €1 million to UNICEF to fight polio in Syria

17 March
Central African Republic: European Union airlifts emergency aid relief

18 March
European voluntary humanitarian aid corps established

19 March
EU launches an Election Observation Mission (EOM) in Guinea Bissau

20 March
Commissioner for Development Piebalgs announces over €6.5 billion in new support for countries and organisations in Asia for the period 2014-2020

EU-Latin America relations (EP Research Service briefing)

24 March
EU cooperation with Latin America: overview of regional and bilateral cooperation and the Development Cooperation Instrument

Development Commissioner Piebalgs announces new EU support of €2.5 billion for Latin America for the years 2014 to 2020

25 March
Joint declaration by President Van Rompuy, President Barroso and Prime Minister Key on deepening the partnership between New Zealand and the EU

27 March

28 March
Ebola in West Africa: European Union joins effort to stop spread of disease and releases €500 000 in immediate funding

Human Rights

11 March
democracy and human rights worldwide


13 March
European Parliament passes three Resolutions on human rights: Uganda and Nigeria; Russia; Human Trafficking in Sinai

20 March
The EU and Mexico hold bilateral Human Rights Dialogue

24 March
Speech by Commissioner Füle: "Human rights and fundamental freedoms – the silver thread running through EU actions"

25 March
Statement by EU High Representative Ashton on the death sentences against 529 members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt

External Dimension of AFSJ

6 March
EESC Opinion on 'Irregular immigration by sea in the Euromed region' (own-initiative opinion)

12 March
Judgment of the General Court, Case T-202/12, Bouchra Al Assad v Council: CFSP - Restrictive measures against Syria - Freezing of funds - List of persons subject to those measures - Personal links to members of the regime (in French)

24 March
Commissioner Malmström on the Common European Asylum System: challenges and perspectives

Eurostat Commission report: Asylum in the EU28 large increase to almost 435 000 asylum applicants in 2013 - Largest group from Syria

28 March
European Commission on EU migration policy and the EU's Return Policy: how to ensure fair, humane and effective return procedures

FAQs on the EU's Return Policy

Communication from the Commission to the Council and EP on the EU Return Policy

EU-Africa Relations

28 March

31 March
The EU and Africa: A Strategic Partnership (EEAS Press release)

EU-US Relations

26 March
EEAS Factsheet on EU-US cooperation on cyber security and cyberspace

Safe Harbor: Reding warns US that progress is needed before summer (EU policy video by viEUws)

EU Institutions

6 March
Partial summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs held in Brussels on 3 March 2014

18 March
Pre-EU Summit Insights: What’s on the table? – Ukraine to steal the spotlight (EU policy video by viEUws)

21 March
European Council conclusions of 20/21 March 2014 (discussing Ukraine, EU-Africa relations and Sri Lanka)

25 March
Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, 17-18 March 2014

Edited by Alice Venn, Dr. Tamara Takács & Dr. Aaron Matta

The Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) is hosted by the T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Founded in 2008, the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) is the first authoritative research interface between academia and practice in the field of the Union's external relations. CLEER serves as a leading forum for debate on the role of the EU in the world, and engages its extended network of partner institutes throughout Europe in its various activities (research projects, conferences, publications etc...).