



PRESS RELEASE

BELGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENCE RECEIVED AT THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Addis Ababa, 11 February 2012: The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, received in Addis Ababa, on 10 February 2012, Mr. Pieter De Crem, Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium, accompanied by a large delegation.

This meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on the AU's efforts to promote peace, security and stability on the continent, with particular emphasis on the situations in Somalia, the relations between Sudan and South Sudan and the Great Lakes region. The Belgian Minister praised the efforts of the AU towards the prevention and peaceful resolution of crises and conflicts across the continent.

The Belgian Minister and his delegation visited the AU Situation Room, which is a key component of the Continental Early Warning System. The Minister and his delegation were briefed on the African Peace and Security Architecture.

The visit of the Belgian Minister of Defense falls within framework of the partnership between the AU and Belgium. Both sides agreed on the need to strengthen this partnership and to take appropriate measures to this effect.

