



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 9 March 2012

**10895/03
EXT 1**

**PESC 394
COAFR 66
ACP 84
DEVGEN 94**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	10895/03 RESTREINT UE
dated:	25 June 2003
new status:	Public
Subject:	Report of the Africa Working Group meeting

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 25 June 2003 (25.06)
(OR. en)**

**10895/03
EXT 1 (09.03.2012)**

**PESC 394
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group

dated : 15-16 April 2003

in: Brussels

No. prev. doc. : 7590/03

Subject : Report of the Africa Working Group meeting

I OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

EU - Africa Dialogue

- The Group reiterated the importance both sides give to the continuation of the EU-Africa Dialogue, as well as to sending the Directors' Troika to Pretoria to this end, during May.
- It was agreed that the Troika would report back on the Troika meeting at Directors' level. Taking into account the outcome of this meeting, the possibilities and timeliness of holding a troika meeting at political level would be discussed.
- The Presidency will revise therefore ToRs for the Directors' Troika to Pretoria, taking also into account comments made by partners. The question of Zimbabwe should also be addressed in a way to find out how the African side wants to deal with this issue. Zimbabwe still remains a priority concern and EU should find ways, together with the African side, to overcome it.
- HoMs in Addis are requested to provide a report with their views and recommendations on the Dialogue, particularly possibilities of dialogue in Addis including specific elements thereupon.

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Common position on HR in Africa

- The Group agreed to streamline reporting on EU activities in the area of HR in Africa according to the Common Position and endorsed the format set out in option I (SEC/0919/03).

Conflict prevention

- The Group agreed to update the inventory on all actions taken by partners to support African peacekeeping capabilities (along the line of MAD/1340/02).
- The Group agreed not to review at this stage the Council Common Position of 14 May 2001 (2001/374/CFSP) and that an analysis of reports should be undertaken first.
- The Group agreed to focus on possible new and operational concepts and to make the common position a better tool for actions and policy measures.
- The Presidency will launch the exercise of the annual inventory on MS bilateral and Commission's contributions in the different areas of the Common Position (with a sufficiently long deadline). To this end an exchange of views would follow by Coreu.
- The Presidency will circulate a Coreu for the annual evaluation exercise after the 3 outstanding reports would be available (team of the willing possibly to be established for this exercise).

Election observation

- The Group reiterated its request to the Commission for an evaluation of election observation missions and the selection criteria.
- The Commission was requested to look into the question of support for electoral census in Angola.

Guinea Bissau

- The Presidency will circulate draft ToRs for a demarche (at the highest possible level to be further decided) to be carried out asap **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. The Presidency will consider further whether it would be possible for a letter to be addressed to President Kumba Yala (signed by the Greek FM or other FM official at political level). Such a letter could be handed over by the local Troika. The Presidency would also examine an alternative possibility to accompany the demarche with simultaneous EU statement.

- The Commission will verify whether an observation request was transmitted by the government together with financial support request.

Togo

- The group agreed to publish a declaration asap and the Presidency will circulate a revised text for partners' comments (with short silence procedure deadline). **NOT**
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Ethiopia/ Eritrea

- The Group confirmed the draft text of the two letters contained in ATH/0885/03 (EU position as witness).
- On Eritrea (EU development commitments) the Group:
 - on the one hand, calls on HoMs in Asmara to seek to operationalise improved relations through concrete commitments or progress by the GoE towards full respect of the Cotonou's Agreement' s values and provisions, in particular through discussions on the various areas of concern (peace process with Ethiopia, relations to neighbouring countries, fight against terrorism, democracy, rule of law, human rights) in the first place to determine GoE's intentions and plans;
 - on the other hand, took note that the EC development cooperation is neither blocked nor frozen but that the NAO and the Commission are obliged to fully appraise projects and the underlying policies of the GoE before decisions can be taken.

DRC

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED** will forward a proposal for a comprehensive declaration, in particular on the withdrawal of the Ugandan troops.
- The Group will discuss the issues outlined in the EUSR's policy paper (SEC/0713/03) at the next meeting.

Burundi

- The Commission will forward information on the possibility of Community financing of the African mission.
- Member States will circulate information on the level of their representation on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony (30 April).

Mozambique

- The Presidency will examine (together with Italy) elements for ToRs for political dialogue for HoMs.

Angola

- HoMs are requested to provide a report in view of the review of the common position (end of May).
- The Presidency will circulate draft ToRs taking into account comments from partners.

Zimbabwe

- The Presidency will instruct HoMs in Harare to update report ATH/0231/03 on human rights violation. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Kenya

- The Commission is requested to provide - through its local representation in Nairobi - information on the existing aid provided to the country.

Sudan

- The Group agreed for HoMs to proceed to next meeting with SPLM in Nairobi, in May. Revised draft ToRs for that meeting to be circulated upon HoMs' recommendations.

II OTHER POINTS

Horizontal issues

1. EU - Africa Dialogue

Following the discussion of the Directors' meeting the Presidency circulated draft ToR for the Troika (at Directors level - ATH/833/03). Reactions by partners give evidence that there is no change of the EU position with regard to Zimbabwe. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

All partners underlined the importance of keeping the momentum and to focus on substance and structure at this juncture would be more helpful to the dialogue. Even from the African side adjustments to the format of the dialogue was acknowledged and at the Ouagadougou meeting they showed willingness to streamline the dialogue. The objective of the Troika was to reaffirm the interest of the EU to continue and reinforce the dialogue with Africa.

NOT DECLASSIFIED In the framework of the forthcoming Troika meeting, the Commission stressed the importance of the presence of the AU Commission in the talks.

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In an attempt to build on the results of the Ouagadougou meeting (based on the 8 priority issues) the Commission suggested to streamline the dialogue around some clusters of common priorities, and four themes:

- (i) Peace and security issues
- (ii) Governance issues
- (iii) Regional integration and trade issues and
- (iv) Key development issues (this might include items such as debt, environment, food security, health, but also the return of stolen cultural goods). The establishment of the AU institutions will address these issues in particular and offer in our view a more appropriate and structured framework for the EU-Africa dialogue. It is therefore on these issues that an effective political dialogue should be developed which could form the basis of a strengthened strategic partnership.

On the future procedures for the dialogue,

- regular Troika meetings should take place both in Addis and in the capital of the AU-Presidency;
- an increasing role for the two Commissions, taking into account the co-ordinating mandate of the AU Commission;
- regular meetings between both the AU and EU-HoMs in Addis which could provide an interface and a guarantee for a continued dialogue;
- building on the experience of the Bi-regional group, the establishment of working groups of officials and/or expert as appropriate in a smaller and more efficient format.

With regard to further planning, the heavy implications on the African side for the preparation of the AU Executive Council (provisionally 21-24 May) and the AU Summit in Maputo (10-12 July) should be taken into account.

The Group has taken note of Portugal's availability to host the summit.

2. Common position on HR in Africa

Pursuant to SEC/0919/03 the Group agreed to streamline reporting requirements in the area of human rights in Africa. According to the common position this would be done in a more standardised form as pointed out in option I) enriched by a summary of the main elements of the activities.

3. Conflict prevention

The Commission outlined the steps to envisage in that matter: update of the inventory established by the Spanish Presidency (MAD/1340/02), establishment of an analysis based on the reports by the HoMs and the SR and reflection if and possibly to what extent the Council Common Position of 14 May 2001 (2001/374/CFSP) needs to be amended. Focus should be on how the Common Position had been implemented.

This assessment was shared by partners adding the following elements:

- need to shift focus from analysis to action and from general to specific commitments (need to give precision to the term «capacity building»);
- to concentrate more on prevention of conflict, the wave of fundamentalism;
- the use of Art. 8 and 96 of the Cotonou Agreement;
- the need to address gender issues in any conflict prevention exercise;
- human rights and in particular the problem of impunity of human rights perpetrators in Africa and the ICC;
- links to security sector reform and interventions by African forces in conflict situations are important issues to be looked at;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

In addition, reference was made to the report adopted at the beginning of last year on a selection of countries according to the Common Position (doc. 5603/02). With regard to this year's selection some reports are still outstanding **NOT DECLASSIFIED** and with regard to DRC the outbreak of new conflicts (Ituri) should be added.

In general, the Presidency underlined the practical aspects of these exercises as the results and analysis could provide useful contributions to the issue discussed also in the framework of the EU-Africa Dialogue (annual inventory according to Art 5 of the Common Position). Furthermore, a proper analysis of the actions undertaken could be a valuable input for the annual policy debate (February or March each year) on the effectiveness of EU external action.

4. Election observation

The Group welcomed the revised Commission service document (election calendar for 2003) and the revised priority list for 2003 - 2004 elections (COM/0200/03) requested at the last meeting.

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NOT DECLASSIFIED strongly advocated EU involvement in the Namibia elections scheduled in 2004 in support for a young democracy which needed to be strengthened.

NOT DECLASSIFIED requested Cameroon to be added for the 2004 elections.

Some partners pointed out that the selection of priority countries could be facilitated by clearly in advance defined and geographically balanced criteria. On the other hand, taking into account that each election has its specificity, criteria for the selection for EOM have to be flexible and be of added value to the democratisation process. Otherwise the risk of ending up every year with a sort of shopping list based on national preferences and pressure is remaining. It was acknowledged that financial constraints are existent and have to be looked at by the Commission.

On the selection of criteria the Commission was of the view that they are to some extent specified in the 2000 Communication and reported that an interservice Working Group is reviewing the implementation of the communication which includes a reflection on the selection criteria used.

Finland informed partners that it invited observers (including opposition parties) from 12 different partner countries for the recent elections which was a useful experience in order to demonstrate to those countries how elections could be run (registration; technological support; advance voting systems; etc;).

The Presidency concluded that following last discussion some progress was made reflected in the revised Commission proposal. On other countries **NOT DECLASSIFIED** discussion should continue and further reflections were needed on the methodology and selection criteria for EOM.

5. Guinea Bissau

The Group acknowledged efforts of HoMs for their report (ATH/0679/03) and shared concerns raised, in particular on the worsening of the financial situation (budget - IMF has postponed its support programme).

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On the question of the feasibility of electoral support, the Commission informed the Group that it sent a mission to the country to prepare a situation report which should be available in two weeks' time. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** If 6 July would be maintained as an election date neither electoral support nor observation could be mobilised. In case of postponement, both activities could eventually be considered.

A request for election support was transmitted to the COM (support for voters office and training for personnel) and other requests were directly transmitted to Portugal.

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6. Togo

The Group expressed disappointment that exploratory mission could not fulfil its task and requested to publish, as soon as possible, the EU statement (to be updated) prepared at an earlier stage.

NOT DECLASSIFIED requested HoMs to provide information on the human rights situation and election conditions.

NOT DECLASSIFIED pointed out that it would be too early to say who would be candidate for elections and the discussion with the opposition is continuing.

7. Central African Republic (CAR)

The Group has taken note of the HoMs report (ATH/0888/03) and of the additional information provided by France. At this stage no calendar for the normalisation existed and a legitimisation can only come by elections. Financial treatment and consequences should pursue under post-conflict conditions. France is entirely financing about 350 CEMAC troops and the integration of Chadien forces (capacity of 400 suggested) is still examined. All together would be sufficient to secure the region of Bangui.

NOT DECLASSIFIED Accordingly, the EU position should encourage the return to normality including elections and a legal government in CAR.

The Commission added that the establishment of an electoral calendar would require a period of 18 to 30/36 months. In a regional context dialogue with Chad should be reinforced in the frame work of Art 8 dialogue and CEMAC will play an important role (summit in March). **NOT**

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8. Ethiopia-Eritrea

Eritrea:

Following the exchange of views on how to continue the dialogue with Eritrea at the last meeting the Group welcomed the Commission's report (COM/0191/03) and took note of President Isayas' wish for improved relations in the framework of the Cotonou Agreement.

The Group discussed the twin-track approach, i.e. HoMs would follow-up discussions on the core issues in political dialogue meetings with the authorities and development cooperation is not frozen and will take place in parallel with resumption under conditions discussed of the political dialogue. In this context the EU would show willingness to continue appropriate development cooperation but would at the same time insist on a real political dialogue.

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9. Uganda

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The Group welcomed the HoMs report (ATH/0739/03 and ATH/0881/03) and took note of conclusions.

10. Kenya

The Group expressed recognition for the HoMs report (ATH/0529/03) on priorities and the programme for the dialogue.

The Group stressed the following elements:

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The Presidency concluded that these elements should be included in the political dialogue programme. It took simply note of the Swedish proposal to combine the SA Troika with a stopover in Nairobi, pointing out that time constraints made this very difficult.

11/12. Great Lakes Region / DRC

The Group was briefed by the EUSR's collaborator, Mr Contini, on the latest developments in the DRC following up the conclusion of the inter Congolese Dialogue in Sun City, South Africa on 2 April 2003.

Mr Contini, recalling that the Sun City global and inclusive agreement consecrates the putting in place of the transition institutions, underlined that this agreement stays under the threat of the exploding dynamics of the east of the country. The importance of the indirect implication of Uganda and Rwanda in the DRC conflict and its consequences for the future of the Sun City agreement should not be neglected.

President Museveni's statement during the Summit meeting with the presidents of Rwanda and DRC on 9 April 2003, according to which Ugandan troops will withdraw from DRC at latest on 24 April 2003 gives rise for some hopes. Nevertheless, International Community should keep more than ever pressure on the interested parties to prevent peace process derailing by the still active negative forces. The possible withdrawal of the Ugandan forces from north east Congo imposes a wider deployment of MONUC in this region. Also the security in Kinshasa is a matter of utmost importance. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** With a view to deepening understanding of the political situation in DRC as it is presently evolving and being able to react at time, International Community should urgently reflect on the functions of the two monitoring mechanisms of the peace process and in particular the "Comité international d'accompagnement de la transition en RDC" and the "Commission de suivi de l'Accord". Those two entities work separately and without any input from each other thus not enabling for a coherent and consistent decision making.

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NOT DECLASSIFIED, recalling that one point on the agenda was also the policy paper on the Great Lakes, presented at the Directors meeting on 18 March, asked for a detailed discussion of this paper. Indicating that this paper was the first stage of the road map for the Great Lakes presented during the Danish Presidency, **NOT DECLASSIFIED** underlined that it was time to reflect on the implementation of the next steps of this road map **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. In the context of this discussion the Group took the view that, due to the absence of Mr Ajello, this matter will be discussed in detail during its next meeting.

The Commission, while underlining that the World Bank was unable to finance the disarmament in DRC and that therefore the Commission had to step in with its RRM, indicated that the Ugandan FM will be in Brussels for a bilateral visit on 28 and 29 April 2003.

The Presidency concluded that during its next meeting, in the presence of EUSR Mr Ajello and having the UN report on DRC, the Group will proceed to a detailed discussion on the situation in the country as well as on the policy paper on DRC (SEC/0713/03).

13. Burundi

The Group was briefed by Mr Contini on the latest developments after the informal meeting of all the belligerent parties in Caux, Switzerland.(see report of Mr Ajello, SEC/0758/03).

The hand-over of the presidential powers to the Vice President will take place on 1 May. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Nevertheless, the cease-fire agreement signed between the transitional government of Burundi and the FDD has not been applied while the FNL has not signed this agreement at all.

Recalling that the integral deployment of the African mission in Burundi will be concluded in two months, Mr Contini explained that the costs for this mission would amount to 120.000.000 dollars, to be financed by voluntary contributions. Belgium has already disbursed 1.000.000 dollars for this purpose. The EU had to reflect very carefully on the possibility to intervene in the financing of the African mission. The attention of the Group was drawn on the deteriorating humanitarian and social situation in Burundi. The IMF has not yet disbursed its second post conflict financial support **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

Summarising the ensuing short discussion, the Presidency indicated that it would welcome information by the Commission concerning the possibility of Community financing of the deployment of the African mission as well as information by Member States concerning the level of their representation in the hand over ceremony.

14. Mozambique

The Presidency referred to the HoMs report (ATH/0891/03) on the answer to the demarche carried out on 25 March **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. It was time now to embark on a political appreciation of the developments in the country and HoMs would be requested to report in the framework of the existing dialogue in order to enable the Group to discuss further steps.

Particular attention was drawn to the important role Mozambique would play as future AU Presidency (as of July) and its role in the SADC security organ.

15. Angola

The Group had an exchange of views on the situation in the country one year after the peace agreement. The preparations for presidential elections have not yet started and the political parties seem not to be in a hurry.

It was suggested that the report ATH/0702/03 (conflict prevention) covers to a great extent the situation. The challenges in the humanitarian field, integration of millions of ex-combatants urge the government to improve its actions. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** The donor conference should be organised as soon as possible.

It was agreed to request a new, full fledged HoMs' Report by the end of May.

16. Swaziland

The Group welcomed the HoMs report giving all elements to move to Art. 8 dialogue in order to express concern on the deterioration of the situation in the country. The modifications of the ToR for the dialogue suggested by the Commission (to be forwarded by Coreu) were accepted by the Group.

AOB:

- Ivory Coast: France briefed the Group on the latest developments. The main focus is on disarmament and establishing a functioning government structure. The amnesty law has to be implemented and the troubles in the west of the country are a serious handicap for further progress (neither government forces nor rebels control region). In addition, Liberia constitutes a threat to the stability of the whole region. Financial and material support to ECOFORCE has to continue in order to allow a return to normal civil life and to integrate disarmed groups.
- MRU: Sweden reported on the PSR Mr. Dahlgren's visit to the region (joint Chair ICGL mission). A written report will be circulated.

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- Sudan: HoMs in Khartoum are undertaking new contacts with SPLM/A to prepare a meeting in Nairobi in May. The Group accepted this proposal and requested updating of ToRs for this meeting, to add new elements of the peace process and other developments.

NOT DECLASSIFIED drew the attention to lack of funding of the cease-fire monitoring missions and requested additional pledges from other partners.

- Zimbabwe: **NOT DECLASSIFIED** requested a discussion on the worsening of the human rights situation and the deterioration of food supply crises in the country and proposed to update HoMs report on the human rights situation dated 3 February 2003 (ATH/0231/03), **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. The Presidency concluded to put it on the agenda of the May meeting. For that meeting a HoMS report on human rights violation would be requested. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- Austria informed on a Colloquium on conflict prevention organised by "Circle de reflexion" in Dakar on 4-5 June (initiated by Austria together with France).

- Sweden requested information on the Round Table discussion on NEPAD (ATH/0844/03) and if contributions by Member States were expected. The Presidency informed that this event is not a governmental forum and invitations were being sent to personalities dealing with African issues. Partners will be informed on the conclusions of this discussion. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** the Presidency recalled that other member states had organised Round Tables and other informal discussion events on NEPAD and other African matters – as they were entitled to – and it has never been an issue. NEPAD has never been solely a COAFR matter.
