



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 June 2012

**10974/03
EXT 1**

**PESC 398
COAFR 71
ACP 90
DEVGEN 95**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject: Report of Africa Working group meeting

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



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 30 June 2003
(OR. en)**

**10974/03
EXT 1 (05.06.2012)**

**PESC 398
COAFR 71
ACP 90
DEVGEN 95**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group meeting at Directors' level
on : 10 June 2003
in : Brussels

No. prev. doc. : 10895/03 PESC 394 COAFR 66 ACP 84 DEVGEN 94

Subject : Report of Africa Working group meeting

I OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

CONFLICT PREVENTION

- The Group agreed that the existing Common Position retains, in general, valid points; nevertheless, it should be reviewed taking into account latest developments in peacekeeping operations and a deeper analysis of reasons of conflicts and financial aspects. Conflict Prevention remains an important aspect of the Dialogue with the Africans.
- Pursuant to the operational conclusions of the April meeting concerning the review process of the common position, the Presidency will circulate:
 - * a summary of the contributions and information provided by Member States bilaterally and the Commission (Art. 5 - annual inventory on EU support to African peacekeeping capabilities);
 - * In order to facilitate the process, the Greek Presidency intends to hand over to the Italian Presidency an informal paper with compilation of elements of the contributions of HoMs reports received or expected from the local presidencies of the seven selected countries; the Commission will provide a contribution to that paper;

- HoMs in Kigali, Bujumbura and Bangui are requested to provide the outstanding reports;
- The Presidency, in addition to the informal paper, will contribute the results of the Round Table on NEPAD including Conflict Prevention Issues (Athens, 16-17 May 2003).

GREAT LAKES REGION / DRC

- The Group examined and concluded that the situation in Ituri remains critical the EU (military) mission of high priority.

The Group agreed that the common position adopted on 8 May 2003 contains the necessary elements for further considerations; nonetheless, intensive cooperation is needed; **NOT DECLASSIFIED**; the Group stressed the necessity for close cooperation with the UN, especially for the successful take over of the operation when the EU mission expires.

- The Group pointed out the importance of normal development of transition of DRC Government; **NOT DECLASSIFIED**; normal transition of power in Burundi, will also contribute positively.
- The Group agreed that, following the PSC request (SEC/1295/03), the main conclusions of the discussion should be communicated to PSC (in a separate Secretariat document) for further consideration and to be taken into account in a possible Council Conclusion on DRC;
- The Group decided to consider the question of the International Conference at a later stage.

EU - AFRICA DIALOGUE

- The Group agreed to the following agenda items:
 1. Assessment of current state of EU - AU Dialogue and ways of enhancing its continuity and effectiveness.
 2. Exchange of views on substantive and procedural issues:
 - a) prospects for making progress on the 8 priority subjects;
 - b) peace and security issues;
 - c) other concerns. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.
- The revised agenda for the Troika meeting will be forwarded to the SA authorities for approval;
- The Troika will report on its meetings with the SA counterparts.

LIBERIA

- Following some comments on the draft declaration (LON/0480/03) the Presidency set a deadline for written comments by Wednesday 11/06 at 12:00Z.

II OTHER POINTS

1. CONFLICT PREVENTION

The Group underlined that conflicts are basically happening in the developing world and that peace is a precondition for any other issue under consideration (security, development, democracy, HR, etc.). Several analysis undertaken so far clearly demonstrate that the main causes of conflicts in Africa are linked to poverty and natural resources. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

2. GREAT LAKES REGION / DRC

The Presidency recalled the PSC mandate given to COAFR (SEC/1295/03) to examine, in the light of the situation on the ground and taking into account the need of a comprehensive regional approach to crisis in the region and their causes, how to support the establishment and the proper functioning of the interim government in DRC. Discussion on an International Conference were left for a later stage.

The Group considered the various elements in view of a possible contribution to Council conclusions to be prepared for GAERC in July.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- **Burundi**

Belgium briefed the Group on recent developments and a report on the inter-Burundian meeting in Caux (SEC/1374/03) was circulated.

3. **EU-AFRICA DIALOGUE**

The Presidency updated on recent developments and that in contact with SA the Troika meeting was finally fixed for 17/18 June (16/06 as a possible beginning). A draft proposal for the Troika agenda was circulated (ATH/1276/03) and modified.

The Greek EU Presidency pointed out that after the postponement of the Lisbon Summit it thought the best way to proceed, considering the need to keep the momentum and to avoid transmitting the wrong message to the African side, was with a Troika at Heads of State level. Nevertheless, out of consideration to the future Italian Presidency and the need for a coherent EU policy on the matter, it was considered as more appropriate to propose instead to partners a Ministerial Troika where Italy could participate. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

4. **ZIMBABWE**

Delegations expressed appreciation concerning the prompt action for a declaration made by the Presidency on the re-arrest of Morgan Tsvangirai.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

AOB:

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

 - **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

 - Italy recalled its proposal (ROM/0277/03) for a possible EU Troika meeting at Ministerial level in the margin of the AU Summit (July 10-12).
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