



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 May 2016
(OR. en)

9096/16

JUR 229
RELEX 409
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INST 222
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COVER NOTE

From:	High Representative, President of the Foreign Affairs Council
date of receipt:	17 May 2016
To:	Presidency

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Subject:	Implementation of the EEAS review - Progress Report of the High Representative to the Council: outcome of the Coreper discussion - Letter from the High Representative, President of the Foreign Affairs Council
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Delegations will find attached at Annex 1 the above mentioned document, in response to the letter of the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee of 18 April 2016 (doc. 8075/16).

H.E. Pieter de Gooijer
Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of The Netherlands
to the European Union

Brussels, 17 May 2016

Ambassador,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 April 2016.

I have taken good note of the points you raise on behalf of COREPER. Member States' acknowledgement that the European External Action Service is developing into a modern and operational foreign policy service is important to me. I remain committed to further developing the service in the months and years to come. I plan to shortly present some ideas on the reform of the CSDP structures. These will reflect the fact that conflict prevention remains a cornerstone of our external policy.

I share Member States' concerns to ensure timely, effective and efficient preparations for the Foreign Affairs Council meetings, and have asked my services to work closely with COREPER and the relevant Council bodies on this.

I also remain very attentive to the staff-related issues raised in your letter. As we had the opportunity to elaborate already at COREPER, the EEAS has also been obliged to cut 1% of its staff on an annual basis. However, despite these cuts we have managed to maintain the number of Member States diplomats at 1/3 of AD staff and also improved the geographical and gender balance. We will continue to strive towards achieving a balance in the presence of Member States at all levels both in Head Quarters and in Delegations.

With reference to the next Progress Report, I gladly agree with your suggestion to have such a Report on further progress in the implementation of the EEAS review towards the end of the current institutional cycle.

Yours sincerely,

Federica Mogherini