



Council of the  
European Union

011035/EU XXVI. GP  
Eingelangt am 12/02/18

Brussels, 12 February 2018  
(OR. en)

14585/02  
DCL 1

PVD 71  
ASIE 49

## DECLASSIFICATION

---

of document: ST14585/02 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

dated: 21 November 2002

new status: Public

---

Subject: Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 14 November 2002

---

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

---

# RESTREINT UE



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 21 November 2002**

**14585/02**

**RESTREINT UE**

**PVD 71  
ASIE 49**

## **TRANSMISSION OF TEXT**

---

from : Secretariat

---

Subject : Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 14 November 2002

---

Please find annexed the report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 14 November 2002.

-----

## 1. CHINA

*- Agreements on ADS and readmission: Progress report from the Commission*

The Commission informed about a recent round of discussions with the Chinese authorities on the ADS and readmission agreements.

- (a) On the ADS Agreement, the Commission underscored the need for a formal agreement, because of EU's readmission concerns. A memorandum of understanding or an exchange of letters would not be sufficient. The Chinese were open and positive on this issue.

The Commission also stressed the importance of choosing an adequate form for the agreement: a Community agreement does need ratification by Member States and would therefore be much easier and quicker to implement than a mixed agreement. The Commission also warned delegations about the likely complications of a mixed agreement with a provisional entry into force pending ratification by Member States.

The Commission will make its choice of the form once the text is ready. At this stage, its Legal Service believes that the formal part of the Agreement could contain matters of Community competences (visa and readmission), while non-Community competence (tourism, travel agencies) could be catered for in an annex to the agreement. The Chinese were also open to such form of Agreement.

In her talks with the Chinese authorities, the Commission also spoke about the selection of travel agencies and WTO requirements. The number of travel agencies authorised to cooperate has increased dramatically; this testifies to the good rhythm of liberalisation in China.

The readmission clause seems to be acceptable to the Chinese side, on the basis of the text that had been submitted by the Belgian Presidency.

The Commission will submit to Members States a draft of the agreement before the end of November for consideration at next COASI I on 12 December.

## RESTREINT UE

- (b) The Chinese side was less clear on its willingness to go ahead with a Readmission Agreement. The Commission believes that the process will be long.

The Commission felt that the EU should concentrate on obtaining an ADS Agreement with a readmission clause and, at the same time, request from the Chinese authorities a Readmission Agreement for 2003.

### 2. ASEM

*- ASEM Task Force: Discussion on a possible EU position for the task force*

The Group discussed a Commission non paper on the setting up of the ASEM Task Force referred to in the ASEM Leaders' Conclusions at ASEM 4. The Presidency and Commission noted the need that the Task Force should be enabled to give an independent view and not be tied down by too precise a mandate. Following requests by some delegations, the Commission agreed to prepare a non paper on a possible mandate.

As regards selecting the five EU representatives in the Task Force, some delegations considered that the Group should first consider appropriate objective criteria for the selection of these representatives before proposals are made on specific names. The Commission agreed to circulate a non paper on such criteria, in the light of comments from Member States.

Some delegations stressed that the Group should be kept informed of the activities of the Task Force, for example through written reports being provided to it.

With regard to coverage of costs of the Task Force, the Commission indicated that it would make available the services of a notetaker, the expenses of members would have to be borne by their employers (governments or private bodies).

The Group agreed to return to this file at its next meeting.

*- Future of the ASEM Economic Pillar: Information from the Commission on state of play in preparations for the discussion*

The Commission indicated that the discussion on the future of the ASEM Economic Pillar would

# RESTREINT UE

review more the "nuts and bolts" of activities in the economic field whereas the ASEM Task Force would have a more visionary role. The first meeting was scheduled for 10 January 2003 in Tokyo or Hanoi, the Commission was preparing a paper to help brainstorming. It was agreed that the Commission would keep delegations informed on development both in the 133 Committee and COASI.

- *AETTC: Report from the 10th PPGG*

The Commission distributed a report on the meeting held in Hunan, China on 23/25 October 2002. The Group noted that the Presidency and Commission had successfully opposed efforts by the ASEM side to keep the AETTC alive in a reduced form. The Presidency noted the need however to pursue discussions on defining the future of ASEM environmental cooperation with a view to the ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting in Italy in 2003; this work could be done in the Council External Environment Group.

### 3. TAIWAN

- *Information from the Commission on the opening of an office in Taiwan*

The Commission informed that its delegation in Taiwan would soon be established. Budgetary obstacles are now overcome and the office and the residence have been rented. The head of the delegation has been selected; local staff will assist him. The delegation will have the same privileges as the offices of Member States in Taiwan.

### 4. MACAO

- *Report from the EU-macao Joint Committee*

The Commission informed on the meeting of the Joint Committee with Macao that took place in Brussels on 18 October. A detailed report has been circulated (document 175/02).

In response to a question by the Portuguese delegation, the Commission pointed out that Macao could no longer benefit from PVDALA Regulation, but could possibly be considered under the relevant budgetary chapter for co-operation with developed countries (B7 - 665).

# RESTREINT UE

## 5. MONGOLIA

*- preparation for the EC-Mongolia Joint Committee*

The Commission informed on preparations for the Joint Committee with Mongolia, which will take place in Brussels on 20 November. An annotated agenda has been distributed (document 174/02). The Commission highlighted the increased interest in assisting development projects in Mongolia. Having realised that TACIS was not the most appropriate instrument in the case of Mongolia, this assistance will be provided under the ALA regime as from 2004.

Upon request from the Greek delegation, the Commission will delete the paragraph on Cyprus from section 4 of the annotated agenda.

## 6. PHILIPPINES

*- Preparation of the EC-Philippines SOM*

The Commission informed on preparations for the Third EC-Philippines SOM (Manila, 21/22 November 2002). Although the meeting has a classical development agenda, the Commission expects talks to be negatively influenced by recent developments affecting the issuing of visas to Philipinos nationals by Members States. Following the inclusion of the Philippines in confidential annex 5b of the Schengen "acquis" by one Member State, all other Member States are now obliged to consult that Member State before issuing a visa to Philipinos. This new situation caused delays for visas and prompted reactions from the Philippine authorities.

The Presidency pointed out that the Visa Working Party had agreed that, in the future, it will be the task of the Presidency to inform third countries of the fact that they had been included in annex 5b.

The Commission mentioned a very loud demonstration that took place in front of the EC delegation's office on 6 November following Council Decision of 28 October, which included Mr José María Sisón and the New People's Army (NPA) in a list of terrorism sponsoring individuals and organisations.

# RESTREINT UE

## 7. INDONESIA

- *preparation of EC-Indonesia SOM*

The Commission informed on the main issues to be discussed at the forthcoming EC-Indonesia SOM that will take place in Brussels on 10 and 11 December. The agenda of the meeting has been circulated in doc. 176/02.

Further to a request from one delegation, the Commission will circulate an annotated agenda. Member States will react in writing to the Commission.

-----

DECLASSIFIED