



Council of the
European Union

011049/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 12/02/18

Brussels, 12 February 2018
(OR. en)

15743/02
DCL 1

COASI 42
PESC 594

DECLASSIFICATION

of document: ST15743/02 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

dated: 17 December 2002

new status: Public

Subject: Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 5 December 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, 17 December 2002

15743/02

RESTREINT UE

**COASI 42
PESC 594**

TRANSMISSION OF TEXT

from : Secretariat

Subject : Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 5 December 2002

Please find annexed the report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 5 December 2002.

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

KOREAN PENINSULA

- *Discussion of developments including the catalogue of EU's cooperation with North Korea*

The Presidency will distribute an updated version of the catalogue of cooperation activities with the DPRK and (in cooperation with CONOP) a list of possible measures in the field of non-proliferation and arms control, together with reflections on options for reactions by the EU and its Member States.

INDONESIA

- *draft Council Conclusions*

Delegations will circulate, by Coreu and before 16 December 2002, their comments and drafting suggestions to the Presidency text. On the basis of these proposals, the Presidency will circulate a revised text for consideration by PSC and adoption by the GAERC in January 2003.

- *peace agreement in Aceh*

The Presidency will issue a declaration welcoming the signature of the peace agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the GAM.

EU-ASEAN SOM and FMM

The Danish and the incoming Greek Presidency will pursue their efforts to reach an early agreement with the ASEAN side on the preparation of the FMM (Luxembourg, 27/28 January 2003), and on the possible holding of a SOM.

HONG KONG

The Presidency will circulate by Coreu a revised draft statement and guidelines for informal demarches on the adoption of anti-subversion law under Article 23 of the Basic Law.

RESTREINT UE

CAMBODIA

- situation of the Vietnamese Montagnards refugees

HoMs in Phnom Penh are invited to report on the situation of the Vietnamese Montagnards refugees and on the concerns raised by the UNHCR over their treatment in Cambodia, and to submit suggestions for possible EU action on this matter.

NEPAL

The Presidency will circulate a draft EU line to take in private contacts with the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the Maoists. Both parties will be invited to resume the peace talks and respect human rights. In addition, the GoN will be urged to respect the rules of democracy and good governance. The Maoists will be urged to put an end to terrorist attacks.

The Presidency will also circulate a draft declaration on the human rights situation in Nepal.

The Group will keep Nepal on its agenda. COHOM-COASI on 6 February will consider different possibilities for EU involvement in Nepal in human rights issues.

BANGLADESH

The EU Troika in Dhaka is invited to carry out a démarche along the lines recommended, and also urging the Government of Bangladesh to embark on a major police and judiciary reform.

II. REPORT

KOREAN PENINSULA

- Discussion of developments including the catalogue of EU's cooperation with North Korea

1. The Group had a substantial debate on EU policy in the light of the most recent developments, including in particular the Council Conclusions of 18/19 November, recent statements by North Korea, the US, Russia and China, the situation as regards KEDO and in the light of South Korean views at the EU-ROK Experts' Meeting on 4 December.

RESTREINT UE

2. The Presidency indicated that the ROK on 4 December had expressed its appreciation for the role played by the EU and Member States, it hoped that the EU would continue to play a constructive role and exercise leverage on the DPRK. The ROK considered that dialogue was the best manner to convince the DPRK to dismantle their nuclear programmes. The ROK had also invited the EU to send a high level mission to Pyongyang at a level sufficiently high to ensure direct access to Kim Jong il, preferably a mission led by the HR Mr Solana.

3. As regards a high-level mission, there was general support in the Group on the principle of such a mission, but it was recognized that we should analyse more carefully its objectives, scope of work and timing and the need for the EU to consult about it beforehand with the main international partners, to ensure that such a mission should bring a coordinated message and avoid the risk of the mission being interpreted as a split in the international community.

4. In course of discussion, there was unanimity that the EU should continue to urge DPRK to immediately dismantle its nuclear programme in a verifiable manner and come into full compliance with all its international commitments: this issue was of great importance to the entire international community and not simply a bilateral one between DPRK and the US alone. Some delegations however drew attention to the importance of also preserving the inter Korean dialogue as the ROK wished, considering that there was no contradiction between this aspect and taking a strong line on the nuclear issues. Other delegations however consider that we should not delink the concerns on nuclear issues from other issues since this would provide North Korea with an excuse not to move on nuclear issues.

5. The Group welcomed a table prepared by the Commission of EU and Member States cooperation activities in the DPRK, some suggested elements for updating this table. Some delegations consider that the scale of these activities was so small as to represent very little potential leverage by the EU on DPRK, while other stressed the possible impact of the very announcement of a set of measures. There was agreement that KEDO was a critical element.

6. It was noted that the KEDO Board meeting scheduled for December was likely to be postponed. The Presidency drew attention to the importance of KEDO and the need for more information to be provided to delegations on KEDO discussions. The Commission noted that, despite its statements, the DPRK still considers that KEDO is still in force and, so far, the inspectors are still at the Yongbyon site.

RESTREINT UE

7. The Presidency stressed the importance of the Korea dossier and the need to pursue examination of it in the coming months. It was important to maintain a united and coherent position within the EU and also close coordination with main partners to ensure that we all have a common position vis-à-vis DPRK. The EU would discuss Korea with the United States at the Asia experts' meeting on 9/10 December and at Ministerial level on 18 December next.

INDONESIA

8. The Group noted the Presidency's draft Council conclusions, expressed support for the general thrust of the messages, and delegations agreed to circulate their possible drafting suggestions by Coreu.

9. Several delegations informed on the state of play concerning their national travel advise to Indonesia and to other Southeast Asian countries. The Presidency suggested to look into the possibility of streamlining, in close co-operation with the competent Consular Affairs Working Group, the national positions, possibly via a HoMs report from Jakarta.

10. Several delegations underlined the need for close co-ordination between the forthcoming COTER-Troika and the Commission's RRM Expert Mission. The Commission confirmed that the RRM Mission had been invited to visit Indonesia in mid-January and stressed the need for this mission to focus efficiently on its technical work.

11. The Group noted the Co-chair's summary of the preparatory conference on peace and reconstruction in Aceh and welcomed the fact that the EU had been able to co-chair on short notice this important meeting. Several delegations informed the Group on their planned national assistance to the Aceh peace process.

EU-ASEAN SOM and FMM

12. The Presidency briefed delegations on the state of play concerning the preparation of the FMM and confirmed that the draft agenda, as well as the EU proposals for a SOM and for the handling of the co-chairs' statement and a possible joint declaration had been transmitted through multiple channels to Laos. So far, the ASEAN side had not reacted to the EU proposals. The Group

RESTREINT UE

expressed concern over this lack of response and suggested to explore pragmatically any possible solution, including a possible meeting with ASEAN ambassadors in Brussels and a possible SOM in early January in Phnom Penh.

13. The Group welcomed the Commission's intention to hold an early discussion on its forthcoming strategy paper on Southeast Asia.

EU relations with ASEM, ASEAN and ARF

14. The Group discussed the issue on the basis of the Presidency's revised discussion paper, and agreed to pursue this discussion at its next meeting with a view to submit to PSC a full review of the political dialogue commitments within the remit of the Asia/Oceania WG (see PSC request).

15. The Group also welcomed HR Solana's readiness to lead the EU delegation to the next ARF Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh in June 2003.

CHINA

16. Over lunch, Asia Directors held a free-flowing discussion on the political evolution in China and its possible consequences for the EU, and looked forward to the Policy Unit's forthcoming paper on this issue.

NEPAL

17. The Group discussed the serious security situation and the deterioration of the human rights record and the economy of Nepal. The risk of regional conflict and intervention by neighbouring powers was also mentioned. One delegation referred to threats to the diplomatic community in Kathmandu.

18. One delegation pointed out that some channels of contact between the GoN and the Maoists seem to exist at present. It was not clear when the international community should be invited to take action; some delegations referred to the possibility of international (UN or possibly EU) human rights monitors. A number of delegations felt that, at this stage, the EU would not be in a position to play a role in the resolution of the conflict: any EU attempt for mediation would encounter strong

RESTREINT UE

resistance from India. However, there is some scope for EU involvement the human rights field. To this end, COHOM-COASI on 6 February will have Nepal on its agenda. One delegation felt that an EU initiative on Nepal at the UN Commission on Human Rights might deserve some consideration.

19. The United Kingdom delegation briefed the Group on the follow-up to the London Conference.

BANGLADESH

20. The Group welcomed the HoMs report and, on this basis, held a short exchange of views on the security situation in Bangladesh and the "Operation Clean Heart". The Bangladesh authorities have expressed to the Commission's delegation their discomfort with the recent EP Resolution. In a recent meeting with the EU HoMs, the PM of Bangladesh gave assurances that the issue of the three EU journalists in detention would soon be solved.

21. All delegations agreed that the démarche to be carried out to the Bangladesh authorities should have a forward-looking nature and also emphasise the need for a reform of the police and the judiciary.

A.O.B.

a) Philippines - closure of the EC delegation

22. The Commission informed the Group on the temporary closure of the EC delegation in Manila. The offices were located in the same complex as the Australian and Canadian Embassies. After Australia had received precise and reliable information on a possible terrorist attack against the building, Australia, Canada and the Commission had decided to leave temporarily the building. All hoped to reintegrate their premises soon. But depending on the further evolution of the situation, the Commission indicated that she might wish to look into possibilities for more secure accommodation.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

23. The UK delegation presented its non-paper, intended to serve, in addition to the HoMs report, as a contribution to the brainstorming on EU-India relations to be held on 11 December in Brussels.

RESTREINT UE

The Group held a short exchange of views on the possibilities of an EU input in the Kashmir question. One delegation suggested that the EU may wish to raise its profile in India by supporting development projects in Kashmir.

AFGHANISTAN

24. The German delegation briefed the Group on the results of the Petersberg II Conference held on 2 December. The following aspects were highlighted: adoption of a communiqué introducing the benchmarking exercise, adoption by the Afghan Transitional Administration - on 1 December- of a decree establishing the Afghan National Army, and preparation a declaration on non-interference to be signed on 22 December in Kabul by Afghanistan and its six neighbouring countries.

25. The German delegation also indicated its intention to take over the command of ISAF- together with The Netherlands - on 15 February, or perhaps even earlier. A vote in the German Parliament will take place on 20 December.

26. The Group took note of the adoption by Coreper, on 4 December, of draft conclusions on Afghanistan to be submitted to GAERC on 9-10 December (doc. 15087/1/02 REV 1).

DECLASSIFIED