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Subject: **Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 10 January 2002**

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

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



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Subject: Report of the Asia Oceania Working Group of 10 January 2002

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

AFGHANISTAN

1. The PSC is invited to approve the Group's agreement that the Presidency should seek to hold an ad hoc Troika visit at political level to Afghanistan and other South Asian countries at a convenient date, and to hold Troika talks with the Afghan Interim Administration and other key players in the margins of the Tokyo Ministerial conference.
2. With a view to the discussion in Coreper on 17 January, delegations will inform the Presidency and the Secretariat before 15 January on their envisaged pledges for the Tokyo conference on the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and - if possible - provide an annual breakdown of pledges for 2002 and beyond. On this basis, the Presidency will circulate a draft with key elements for the EU's political message in Tokyo.

SRI LANKA

3. HoMs in Colombo are invited to update their assessment of the political situation in Sri Lanka, particularly regarding the issues raised in the working document submitted to the AOWG by the HLWG on Asylum and Migration .

EU-CHINA

4. The Presidency will offer the Chinese MFA a new draft for the exchange of letters setting out the reinforced political dialogue, with one amendment ("...their dialogue on human rights, **including** through biannual meetings...")

MALAYSIA

5. The Presidency will circulate the text of a draft reply to the Malaysian PM's letter of 7 December to EU Heads of Government concerning terrorism and the MEPP

EAST TIMOR

6. Partners are invited to inform each other, by coreu, and if possible by the end of January, on the level of their likely attendance at the East Timor independence celebrations on 20 May

CAMBODIA

7. The Presidency will circulate terms of reference for a draft confidential demarche to be made by EU Troika HOMs in Phnom Penh regarding recent political violence in the lead-up to the commune elections

II. OTHER POINTS

SPANISH PRESIDENCY PROGRAMME

8. Spain briefed on its proposed programme for political dialogue and its priorities in Asia during its Presidency.

AFGHANISTAN

a) briefing by the EU's Special Representative

9. EUSR Amb.Klaiber briefed the Group on the political and security situation in Afghanistan, including the establishment of the new Interim Administration (IA), the agreement reached on the deployment of ISAF, the political calendar for the coming months, the priorities for quick

impact assistance and rehabilitation projects, and the situation of minorities and women. The EUSR stressed that a rapid improvement of the situation was crucial; the EU should step up efforts to disburse quickly the emergency aid pledged. Delegations agreed and informed the Group on the state of financial transfers to the UNDP-fund.

b) results of the Steering Group meeting in Brussels (20/21 December 2001)

10. In the presence of budget experts, the Group noted the report of the Brussels meeting circulated by the Belgian Presidency and a series of working documents, including the draft annotated agenda and the objectives for the Tokyo ministerial conference, a Commission working paper on the EU contribution (DS 01/2002), the Chairmen's summary of the Brussels meeting, papers on the financing mechanism and the Implementation Group, and on the Netherlands' views regarding the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Delegations discussed the outcome of Brussels, and stressed the need for an 'Afghan ownership of the reconstruction process and the need to move forward in Tokyo. The Presidency summed up the discussion along the following lines :

- agreement on a stronger involvement of the Afghan IA in the reconstruction, including full participation in donors co-ordination ;
- need for an essential role of the UN, UNDP and the World Bank ;
- agreement to implement the structures agreed in Brussels, including the political compromise on the Implementation Group, in flexible, evolutive and efficient manner on the ground ;
- agreement on the other results of the Brussels meeting, including the trust fund mechanism;
- Presidency and Commission, as co-chairs of the Steering Committee, will keep delegations constantly informed on the discussions in this group.

c) preparation of the Tokyo Conference (21/22 January 2002)

11. The Group resumed Coreper's discussion of 9 January on the basis of the Commission working paper (DS 01/2002). Several delegations informed the Group on their envisaged pledges for Tokyo. Some delegations recalled their difficulties to agree, at this stage, to an overall percentage for the EU contribution, to the suggested 60:40 breakdown between Member States' and EC aid, and to the suggested use of the margin within Chapter 4 of the EC budget. Delegations also informed on their intended level of participation in Tokyo.

12. The Presidency concluded that the Commission paper remained a useful working hypothesis which allowed all partners to further elaborate their position. The Presidency invited delegations to seek an agreement on the crucial aspects in Coreper on 17 January, so that the

Presidency and the Commission could deliver in Tokyo a strong and credible political message on behalf of the EU. The Presidency and the Commission would continue to press other regional co-chairs to shoulder a fair share of the reconstruction burden. Final EU co-ordination would probably be necessary in Tokyo. The Troika would also seek possibilities to hold talks with the Afghan IA and other key players in the margins of Tokyo.

d) Common Position 2001/56/CFSP

13. The Group noted that the above Common Position would be repealed (Council doc. 5082/02). The Group will examine at a later stage the possible need for a new Common Position.

SRI LANKA

14. The Group noted the series of questions raised by the HLWG on Asylum and Migration (DS 02/2002) regarding Sri Lanka's policies on several key issues in the EU Action Plan. Given the changes in the political landscape after the elections, the Group agreed to invite HoMs to update their assessment of the situation

INDIA-PAKISTAN

15. The British and German delegations briefed on their recent visits to the region. The Group discussed the mounting, but calculated and controlled tension between India and Pakistan and agreed to the general course of action suggested by the Presidency :

- the EU will continue to monitor closely the evolution of the situation, both in regard to the (cross-border) terrorism angle, to the military build-up on the Indo-Pakistani border and the LoC, and to the underlying structural tensions. Pres.Musharraf's announced speech and its effects will have to be analysed carefully ;
- no immediate new declarations or demarches, unless required by the evolution of the situation;
- Member States bilateral high level political contacts, both by telephone and visits, remain useful to express the EU's strong concerns and to "baby-sit" in the present crisis. A coherent EU message and complementarity are crucial; delegations will share relevant information on bilateral contacts by Coreu. The merits of a possible EU Troika visit to the region will be considered;
- The EU will continue to liase closely with the US (forthcoming Pol.Dir. talks in Siguenza on 22 January) and other international key players and will examine possible joint or parallel action ;
- EU HoMs should consider to liase closely in New Delhi and in Islamabad;

- The Working Group might devote a special session to India and Pakistan.

TERRORISM

16. The Presidency, Secretariat and Commission briefed on the PSC conclusions of 11 December and their likely follow-up. The Presidency drew attention to the agreements reached at the ARF ISG on CBMs in New Delhi and noted that it hoped that its special Ambassador for terrorism would attend the planned ARF meetings on terrorism.

BURMA/MYANMAR

17. The Presidency noted that it hoped that the Regional Directors Troika would visit Rangoon/Yangon from 12-15 March. It would seek a guarantee, through the acting Presidency in Rangoon/Yangon (Italy) that the Troika would see ASSK. If and when dates were agreed, the Presidency would issue draft terms of reference, based on the October Council conclusions, updated to take account of the current political situation. The Commission briefed on the state of play regarding its proposed HIV/AIDS assistance.

EU-ASEAN

18. The Group agreed to postpone discussion of this item until its meeting on 7 February.

A.O.B.

- Indonesia

19. The Presidency noted the concern expressed by Jakarta HOMs at the Commission's planned fact-finding visit to Indonesia (on conflict prevention) as well as the Commission's plans for a separate visit on human rights. The Commission explained the background to both visits and noted that it believed that the Union had already agreed to the fact-finding visit through the PSC. It was agreed that EU HOMs would meet the next day to see if the Commission's explanation of the background to the Mission had met their concerns. If it did not, the Commission could have to consider restricting the mission in its geographical scope or even recalling it.

- **Fiji**

20. France argued in favour of lifting remaining EU measures. The UK argued against doing so, at least before seeing the Government's reaction to the Appeal Court's ruling. It was agreed to revert to this issue at a subsequent meeting of COASI. It was noted that measures taken under the Cotonou Agreement would need to be considered by the ACP working group.

- **ASEM**

- *ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting, Beijing, 15 January 2002*

21. The French delegation expressed its concerns on the position taken by China regarding the status of the final document of the Ministerial. The Commission representative indicated that China had now adopted a more flexible position and was now prepared to agree to a short factual document on the outcome of the Ministerial meeting, as the EU side wished.

- *ASEM 5*

22. The Presidency indicated that Vietnam had offered to host the ASEM 5 Summit in Hanoi in 2004. The Group could look at this item at a later stage.

- **Pakistan**

23. The Presidency announced that the Deputy DG of its Agency for Co-operation would participate in the forthcoming Human Development Forum in Pakistan.
