



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 9 March 2012**

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EXT 1**

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

  

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ANNEX

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 18 March 2003 (18.03)  
(OR. en)**

**7590/03  
EXT 1 (09.03.2012)**

**PESC 143  
COAFR 33  
ACP 45  
DEVGEN 33**

### **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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from : Africa Working Group

dated : 4-5 March 2003

in : Brussels

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Subject : Report of the Africa Working Group meeting

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### **I OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS**

#### **EU - Africa Dialogue:**

- The Presidency will continue contacts with South Africa to clarify further ways to keep the dialogue going (Troika format, lower and/or higher level), in particular follow-up to the Ouagadougou Ministerial Conference with a view to hold a Summit at the earliest possible date.
- HoMs in Addis are requested to provide a report on aspects of the dialogue which could be established in Addis in the institutional framework of the AU.

#### **Election observation:**

- The Commission will circulate a revised proposal on priorities for 2003 - 2004, including a complete election calendar, taking comments of partners into account.

#### **Guinea Bissao:**

- HoMs in Bissao (and Dakar) are requested to prepare a common (coordinated through their capitals) report on the general political situation in the country, including human rights and the electoral process **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. Suggestions should be made on the conditions and benchmarks which could justify EU support to the electoral process.

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**Ivory Coast:**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**Sudan:**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**Ethiopia/Eritrea:**

- In view of the boundary Commission's report to be submitted to the UNSC mid March the Group will come back to this issue after that.
- On Eritrea the Group agreed to continue, for the time being, the dialogue meetings at HoMs level in Asmara and wait for the outcome of Commissioner Nielson's visit to the country early April.

**Democratic Republic of Congo:**

- Silence procedure for draft Common Position will be established.
- Presidency will circulate revised terms of reference for demarches to be carried out **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.
- The Group agreed to suggest to the PSC that the EU participation in the International Guarantee Committee would be assured by the local Presidency and the Commission.
- Silence procedure for TOR on Conflict Prevention (ATH/0465/03) is extended until 9 March, 20:00 Z.

**Burundi:**

- EUSR Ajello is invited to take contact with South Africa in its capacity as chair of the AU to examine the situation in Burundi.
- Presidency will also take contact with South Africa to discuss the process and within the coming month an options paper drafted by the Presidency and the SR will be presented to partners for comments.
- HOMs in Bujumbura will be asked to produce a report analysing the situation and indicating perspectives for the transition. TOR for such a report will be circulated.

**Mozambique:**

- Presidency will circulate revised terms of reference for a demarche for partners' comments via coreu, taking into account that major amendments were proposed during discussions in the Group by one partner after the deadline set in Coreu ATH/460/03.

## II OTHER POINTS

### **EU - Africa Dialogue:**

The Presidency informed the Group that a letter, signed by FM Papandreou, was sent to FM Zuma of South Africa, presiding over AU, following the decision to postpone the Lisbon Summit (ATH/0471/03). According to the conclusions of COREPER of 14/02/03 the Presidency would continue to explore together with South Africa possibilities to hold the Summit at the earliest possible date. Portugal reaffirmed its interest in hosting the next Summit in Lisbon. A HoMs report on a discussion on EU - AU relations with the Interim Commissioner for Political Affairs of the AU, Mr. Said Djinit, was circulated in the Group.

The Group had a brief exchange of views on the follow-up to the postponement of the Lisbon Summit and agreed to have an in-depth discussion on that issue at Directors' level on 18 March (cf. AOB).

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

### **Election observation:**

The Group had a first exchange of positions on the Commission paper on election priorities for 2003 - 2004 (COM/0116/03). **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

In general, partners wished to have again a discussion on the underlying principles and criteria (e.g. democratisation, rule of law, human rights standards, etc.) to be in a position to better judge the selected priorities. The Commission drew the attention to the fact that the election calendar covers all regions and a final discussion on the criteria would take place in COHOM considering the priorities defined in the regional Working Groups. Some partners expressed the wish to receive additional information concerning the criteria used for the selection of countries for election observation. For some countries **NOT DECLASSIFIED** a timely observation might not be organised and a clear distinction has to be drawn between assistance to an electoral process and election observation in the strict sense.

## **WESTERN AFRICA**

### **Guinea Bissao:**

The Group discussed the **NOT DECLASSIFIED** political situation in view of the announced parliamentary elections in May 2003. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** Given the fact that only a few Member States are represented in Bissao it was suggested that HoMs of other Member States in Dakar should be requested together with HoMs in Bissao to report on the political situation.

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

### **Ivory Coast:**

Policy Unit **NOT DECLASSIFIED** briefed the Group on the contacts HR Solana had with President Gbagbo, Ghana's President Kufuor (Chair of ECOWAS) and opposition leader Ouattara. At the Accra meeting on 06/03 open questions regarding the transitional government should be solved. In the "Comité de suivi" (CdS) the EU is represented by the local Presidency (Italy) and the Commission, France participating at its own capacity.

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

The question of what profile the CdS should have and what role the EU should play therein should be further discussed and clarified **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

The Presidency concluded that this question might be taken up at the Directors' meeting in a broader discussion on conflict prevention - management - resolution.

### **Equatorial Guinea:**

On the basis of Coreu COM/0086/03 and additional background information by the Commission it was suggested to consider the country on the same basis as other African countries. Future cooperation and dialogue should be on a broader basis and many of the suggestions referred to work in the ACP Group.

## **EASTERN AFRICA**

### **Sudan:**

The report on the first EU-Sudan dialogue meeting in 2003 was circulated (ATH/0433/03). The next dialogue meeting should focus on democracy and human rights.

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Italy informed about talks HoMs in Nairobi had with IGAD Special Envoy, General Sumbeiywo on the peace process. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

France informed about the nomination of its Special Representative for the peace process.

The Netherlands informed about a donor conference which will take place on 1-3 April. Invitation to all Member States and the Sudan Government as well as SPLM/A will follow.

### **Ethiopia/Eritrea:**

The Presidency recalled the reports on the demarches carried out in both capitals (ATH/0386/03 - Eritrea and ATH/0405/03 - Ethiopia). **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

It was suggested to assess the situation in the demarcation process in the light of the second report to be submitted to the UNSC (15 March) and the HoMs reports possibly at the Directors' meeting.

With regard to Eritrea the Netherlands underlined the importance of following up to the first dialogue meeting of HoMs and to commit the government to continue the dialogue. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** The upcoming visit of Commissioner Nielson (early April) would provide a good opportunity to further evaluate the developments.

### **Somalia:**

The Group agreed to issue the declaration (modified during the meeting) to give a timely reaction to the violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement.

## **GREAT LAKES REGION**

### **Democratic Republic of Congo:**

The text on the draft Common Position (SEC/0536/03) was in general agreed by the Group.

It was agreed not to await any further developments in the DRC before proceeding with the adoption of the Common Position, since the review clause in art. 14 could always be applied. Because the draft had been presented with short notice, a short silence procedure was however agreed to allow for any drafting comments.

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Through the Greek Ambassador in Kinshasa, who is accompanying the SR Ajello, the Group was informed about development at the meetings in Pretoria. The Group then discussed the situation, expressing the hope that UNSR Niasse would reintroduce a certain

continuity in the negotiations, since the transition period was supposed to start within the coming weeks. The deployment of a neutral force in Kinshasa was also seen as an urgent matter. The Commission presented the letter from Commissioner Nielson to President Kabila on the funds to be made available to the DRC. The Group also had an exchange of views on the resignation of the Finance and Budget Minister Freddy Matungulu Mbuyamu **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

#### **Burundi:**

The Group finalised a declaration on the judicial follow-up to the Itaba massacre in Burundi (SEC/0590/03).

Delegations welcomed information from the Commission about its decision to contribute 1,23 million € to the establishment of an AU cease-fire observer mission in Burundi for six months.

The Group had an exchange of views on the situation in the country linked to the upcoming handover of the Presidency on 1 May. It expressed concern over the transition process, but agreed that any action should not cast doubt on the EU position concerning the regular changeover. The EU had assisted and would continue to assist in the process. The EUSR Ajello would therefore be invited to take contact with South Africa in its capacity as chair of the AU to examine the situation, to strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the AU. In parallel, the Presidency would also take contact with South Africa to discuss the process and within the coming month an options paper drafted by the Presidency and the SR would be presented to partners for comments.

#### **Rwanda:**

The Group agreed that the Commission could continue with its deployment for an election observation mission to the Referendum. Final decisions on observation of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections would be taken later on the basis of the benchmarks agreed.

### **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

#### **Malawi:**

The Group discussed the situation. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** The Group noted the Commission's intention to include Malawi among the 2004 election priorities. The Group will revert at a later stage to the matter of election observation.

#### **Mozambique:**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

The Group continued its discussion on a demarche to be carried out in the country and its possible terms of reference.

## AOB

- Agenda for the meeting at Directors level of the AWG:

The Group agreed to limit the meeting to a one day meeting on 18 March. Agenda items would be centred on the EU-Africa dialogue (EU-Troika, follow-up to Ouagadougou Ministerial Meeting and EU-AU/NEPAD), Coherence and consistency and Conflict prevention.

- Liberia:

Sweden briefed the Group on the meeting of the ICGL in New York on 28/02 (a full report will be circulated). **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- Uganda:

UK informed the Group on the LRA offer on a cease-fire in the North which was announced on local radio stations and no reply has yet been given by President Museveni. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- Zimbabwe:

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- Namibia/Angola:

Spain informed the Group about a recent visit by a Ministerial delegation to Namibia and Angola.

- Information by the Presidency:

The next meeting would be at Directors' level on 18 March (all day) and no half day meeting on 19 March. The EU Troika with the US was fixed for 19 March and the agenda would be circulated soon.

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