



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 June 2012

**10591/03
EXT 1**

**PESC 361
COAFR 59
ACP 78
DEVGEN 92**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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



ANNEX

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THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 16 June 2003 (OR. en)

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EXT 1 (04.06.2012)

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group
dated : 21-22 May 2003
in Brussels

Subject : Report of the Africa Working Group meeting

I OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

GREAT LAKES REGION

DRC

- Presidency informed the Group on the outcome of discussions in the GAERC on 19 May on the political framework for a special force for Ituri;
- The Group noted that the matter will be discussed further in PSC;
- The Group underlined the importance of obtaining the acceptance from Uganda and Rwanda concerning the deployment of a force in the Ituri;
- The Group noted the report of the EUSR and his recommendations set out in SEC/1160/03;
- Presidency will invite HoMs in Kinshasa to report more regularly on the situation, **NOT** **DECLASSIFIED** and to associate the EUSR in their work whenever possible, underlining the stabilising role of the EU in the international context;

- The Group underlined the importance of the good functioning of the Ituri Pacification Commission (IPC);

- Presidency will invite HoMs in Kampala to also make relative reports more regularly;
- The Commission informed the Group about the envisaged support for transition, in particular the training of a police force in Kinshasa. The positive role played by ECHO notably in Ituri was noted;
- The Group agreed to bring to the consideration of PSC the urgency for promoting stabilisation in DRC, the EU being a major international actor for the peace process in the Great Lakes Region. The transition of power in DRC also made this imperative.

Burundi

- The Group noted the report of the EUSR as well as the information by **NOT DECLASSIFIED** of its intention to finance a follow-up meeting to the informal meeting between the Government of Burundi and the FNL;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Rwanda

- With the concurrency of the Presidency, the Group underlined the importance of carrying out the demarche urgently by the local Presidency **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

Great Lakes Region

- The Group agreed to revert to the paper prepared by the EUSR (SEC/0713/03) in depth at a later stage;
- The evaluation of the mandate of the EUSR is the subject of a separate coreu (SEC/1252/03).

EU - Africa Dialogue

- The Presidency informed the Group that the Greek Foreign Minister, Mr. G. Papandreou, in his capacity as President of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of EU, communicated with Mrs. N. Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa that holds the Presidency of the African Union. They reiterated the agreement of both sides on the importance of the continuation of the dialogue and the need to revitalise it at this stage through a Troika Meeting at Directors' level to be followed by a Troika at Ministerial level at an appropriate time;
- Having heard all the different approaches, the Group concluded that the EU attaches great importance to the continuation of the EU-Africa Dialogue. For this reason, the Group has decided that it is preferable to let the Directors' Troika free to explore ways and means to promote the Dialogue and see how some problems could be overcome. As pointed out by the Commission, the EU has to respond positively to the African side for the dialogue and to this end, discuss also about subjects that unite without of course excluding those which divide both sides;
- The Presidency will circulate draft ToR next week for partner's comments.

Zimbabwe

- The Group welcomed with appreciation HoMs reports on the state of play (ATH/1091/03) and on benchmarks for the dialogue (ATH/1023/03) and will continue to reflect on all aspects of the reports, **NOT DECLASSIFIED**;
- HoMs are requested to provide a summary (about 2 pages) on the benchmarks contained in the report to be used by partners as reference points in related discussions, as appropriate.

Togo

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**;
- In view of a reinforced approach towards conflict prevention (to avoid Togo to become a failed state) the Group will come back to the issue after the elections and discuss in depth future EU policy towards the country guided by the principle of coherence.

Guinea Bissau

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**;
- HOMs are requested to report on the government's intention to postpone the elections and provide an assessment of the developments;
- The Presidency will circulate a draft for a EU declaration including the issue of the elections (consideration of EU support).

Nigeria

- The Presidency will circulate, for partners comments, a draft letter (to be signed by Greek FM G. Papandreou) congratulating President elect Obasanjo;
- The Presidency will circulate a draft for the revision of the common position on Nigeria, after the inauguration ceremony.

Ivory Coast

- HoMs are requested to report by 6 June on the developments and the whole peace process;
- It was decided and partners were accordingly requested to provide possible information on their bilateral financial support to the different actions in the peace process;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Ethiopia/ Eritrea

- The Group remains engaged in the peace process and will monitor developments in both countries. The Group will also follow the question in the framework of the UN (SC and SG mandate).

Sudan

- HoMs are requested to prepare a special report on the situation in Darfur and in addition, HoMs in Ndjamena are requested to contribute with a report from their perspective.

Cameroon

- HoMs are requested to propose elements for a structured dialogue with the government focusing on questions of human rights, rule of law and good governance including electoral matters;
- The Group agreed to undertake a demarche on the basis of this proposal for a structured dialogue.

II OTHER POINTS

GREAT LAKES REGION

1. DRC

The EUSR informed the Group about the situation in the country. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

2. Burundi

NOT DECLASSIFIED

NOT DECLASSIFIED

3. Rwanda

NOT DECLASSIFIED

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

4. Central African Republic (CAR)

The Group was informed on the state of play in the envisaged consultation procedure according to Art 96 of the Cotonou agreement which was agreed at Council this day. The questionnaire to be prepared by the Commission will focus on 3 areas - rule of law; return to democratic conditions and elections in reasonable time; credible measures to tackle corruption.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

5. Zimbabwe

NOT DECLASSIFIED

HORIZONTAL ISSUES

6. EU - Africa Dialogue

The Presidency informed the Group that in a conversation between Greek FM Papandreou and South African FM Zuma, in her capacity as AU Presidency, South Africa welcomed an EU Director's Troika to be followed by a Ministerial at an appropriate time.

Several partners welcomed this acceptance as a positive sign and reiterated the importance of revitalising the dialogue. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

NOT DECLASSIFIED requested to enlarge the Troika to those interested in following the discussions.

WESTERN AFRICA

7. Togo

NOT DECLASSIFIED

The Group agreed to come back to an in-depth discussion after the elections in view of a possible common EU approach towards the country.

8. Guinea Bissau

NOT DECLASSIFIED

9. Nigeria

Several Member States have sent congratulatory messages to President elect Obasanjo, some of them including elements on what is expected for the second term. These expectations should also be part of the letter proposed to be sent by the Presidency on behalf of the EU. Some Member States already received invitations for the inauguration ceremony on 29 May where most of them would be represented at the level of Ambassadors.

The Commission provided the latest information of the EU EOM and a final report would be circulated.

10. Ivory Coast

The Presidency recalled Council (19 May) and PSC (20 May) discussions on financial support to the peace keeping ECOWAS forces. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

11. Mano River Union

NOT DECLASSIFIED briefed the Group on the ICGL mission to the region (14-15 April) and the 3rd session of the ICGL held in Brussels on 12 May (STO/0248/03). It was underlined that sustained international support from donors would be required for a successful process **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

The Presidency invited PSR Dahlgren for the next meeting to report on further activities and developments in the region.

EASTERN AFRICA

12. Ethiopia-Eritrea

The Group discussed the situation in both countries in the process of the implementation of the BC decision. Despite the relative calm at this moment the EU should remain engaged, further monitor the process and be prepared in case further problems should arise. **NOT**

DECLASSIFIED

A.O.B.

- **Cameroon:** The Group discussed the deterioration of the human rights situation in the country and examined with preoccupation the report provided by HoMs (COM/0240/03). **NOT**

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