



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 June 2012

11719/12

**COASI 119
ASIE 76
COPS 223
WTO 240
PESC 801**

NOTE

From: General Secretariat
Dated: 25 June 2012
No. prev. doc.: 11611/12
Subject: Council Conclusions on Pakistan

At its meeting on 25 June 2012, the Council adopted the Council Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS**on****Pakistan**

1. The Council welcomes the visit of the High Representative to Pakistan on 5-6 June 2012, and the launch of the Strategic Dialogue under the 5-year Engagement Plan. Together these are an expression of the deepening and widening of the EU's relationship with Pakistan.
2. The Council takes note of the political developments in Pakistan and expects that any steps taken will be in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Pakistan. The EU strongly supports Pakistan's democratic institutions and civilian government, as well as the role of civil society.
3. The EU looks forward to Pakistan's forthcoming elections, and expects these to see a democratic transfer from one elected government to the next. The EU is ready to consider deploying an election observation mission (EOM) and to offer technical assistance should Pakistan request this. The Council reiterates the importance of ongoing electoral reform, and considers that the recommendations of the 2008 EOM should facilitate this.
4. The EU has undertaken to offer improved market access to Pakistan through the implementation of the autonomous trade preferences under the WTO waiver and the commitment to provide for Pakistan's eligibility to GSP+ as from 2014, provided that it meets the necessary criteria. In this context, Pakistan should ensure that the international conventions listed in the GSP regulation are effectively implemented.

5. The EU encourages Pakistan to intensify efforts on political, economic, fiscal and energy reform. The EU expects that Pakistan will respond positively to EU concerns on these questions. In particular, the EU reiterates its expectations regarding the promotion and respect of human rights, including the protection of the rights of minorities and of freedom of religion. The EU and Pakistan have agreed to strengthen their dialogue in this field.
6. The EU recognises the many difficult security challenges Pakistan faces, particularly the sacrifices it has made in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. The EU calls on Pakistan to meet those challenges with renewed strength and stands by it in doing so. As part of our cooperation under the Engagement Plan the EU and Pakistan are launching sector dialogues on non-proliferation and counter-terrorism. The EU will work closely with the Pakistani authorities to finalise and implement Action Plans on counter-terrorism under the EU counterterrorism/security Strategy adopted today. The EU is also in dialogue with Pakistan on organised crime and migration. The Council calls for full implementation by Pakistan of the 2010 readmission agreement.
7. The EU welcomes the positive momentum in broader Pakistani external relations, most notably the improved relations with India, and encourages Pakistan to play an active role in all endeavours to strengthen regional political and economic co-operation, including in the context of the 'Heart of Asia' initiative. Pakistan's role in promoting a secure Afghanistan and in facilitating an Afghan-led process of reconciliation is vital. The EU emphasises the importance of Pakistan's continued constructive cooperation during the gradual withdrawal of ISAF troops from Afghanistan.
8. The Council notes that the Strategic Dialogue could lead, in the light of progress achieved, to a third EU-Pakistan Summit at the earliest possible time.