



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 August 2012

**12117/06
EXT 1**

**PESC 767
COAFR 170
ACP 126
DEVGEN 209**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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



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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 31 July 2006
(OR. en)**

ANNEX

**12117/06
EXT 1 (14.08.2012)**

**PESC 767
COAFR 170
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group meeting

on : 19 July 2006

in : Brussels

No. prev. doc. : 11738/06

Subject : Report

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

EU Strategy for Africa

The Group

- took note of the report from the well-prepared and constructive brainstorming meeting on 12 July 2006 and the outcome as set out in SEC/1624/06;
- agreed to establish a virtual reference group for the Joint Strategy and invited member states to provide name and e-mail address for their participant to the Council Secretariat (peter.clausen@consilium.europa.eu);
- noted that first drafts for the EU contributions to the outline would be circulated in advance of the experts meeting on 12 September through the virtual reference group;
- took note of the proposed questionnaire to prepare the first progress report to the European Council on the implementation of the EU Strategy for Africa. The questionnaire will allow Member States to inform on their contributions to the implementation of the Strategy. It was agreed to circulate it to Member States;
- took note of the launch of the new website on the EU Strategy for Africa;
- noted the planned holding of a troika at senior officials level in Addis Ababa on 21-22 September to prepare the next Ministerial troika meeting in Brazzaville on 10 October including agenda, draft communiqué and adoption of the implementation matrix;

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**;

- took note of the presentation by the Commission of the Communication on the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure as an important element of the EU Strategy for Africa and agreed that the Communication will be discussed in detail by the ACP Working Group.

EU Strategic Partnership with South Africa

The Group

- thanked HoMs for their reports on South Africa's role in Africa and on elements of an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership and agreed with their points of view and recommendations;
- agreed that the Commission Communication "Towards an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership" was a good basis for starting negotiations on a strategic partnership;
- agreed on the importance of concluding a strategic partnership with SA, which would establish a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated long-term framework for political cooperation with South Africa;
- agreed with HoMs that a strategic partnership should bring added value to the existing relationship;
- agreed that a Strategic Partnership would be in line with the commitments undertaken in the EU Strategy for Africa;
- underlined the importance of South African ownership of and participation in a strategic partnership;
- noted the Presidency's intention to circulate a coreu asking partners for written comments and proposals on the draft joint action plan;
- invited the Commission together with the Council Secretariat to afterwards draw up a draft action plan based on input provided by the Commission, the Council Secretariat and Member States;
- noted that the GAERC in October will adopt conclusions on the strategic partnership, to be elaborated in cooperation with the ACP Working Group, as a contribution to the drafting of the action plan;
- agreed that the draft action plan should be discussed with South Africa with a view to its discussion/adoption at the Joint EU-South Africa Cooperation Council on 14 November 2006.

Migration

The Group

- welcomed the Commission briefing on the Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development held in Rabat on 10-11 July and Action Plan and Final Communiqué of the;
- noted that the EU position in preparation for the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development to be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006 was adopted by the Council on 17 July;
- noted the ongoing discussions at the High Level Working Group on Migration and Asylum and agreed to cooperate closely on the preparation of forthcoming conferences in Africa.

On the Commission non-paper on the dialogue on Migration with ACP Countries, the Group

- welcomed the Commission non-paper as a good basis for discussion with African countries within the framework of political dialogue under article 8 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement;
- agreed that comments to the non-paper should be circulated by coreu;
- agreed to inform the ACP Working Party on the non-paper discussion of the Commission non-paper on the dialogue on migration with the ACP countries;
- discussed which countries should be the subject of a political dialogue in the framework of article 13 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement as a matter of priority;
- took note of the information by the Commission that specific Art 13 consultations/missions will be fielded only when art 8 political dialogue is not strongly established or when the country-specific circumstances otherwise so require;
- agreed that Art 13 consultations/missions will be announced in advance for Member States to provide comments.

DRC

The Group

- welcomed the briefing by the Commission on recent developments of the electoral campaign, took note of ongoing deployment of the EU EOM and underlined the need of a well coordinated and coherent approach when issuing political statements or declarations following the 1st round of elections on 30 July;
- invited HoMs in Kinshasa to provide an early report with a political assessment of the 1st round of elections, while pursuing close coordination within the EU as well as within the international community/CIAT;
- recalled the GAERC conclusions of 17 July highlighting the call on all Congolese parties to abstain from all acts of harassment, intimidation and violation of HR;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**;

Furthermore, and recalling that this issue has been raised in the reports of the EUSR for the Great Lakes and by the PSC, the Group

- had a first exchange of views regarding the possible framework for coordinating the cooperation of international community with the new elected Government;
- agreed that the issue of governance will be of fundamental importance for the future cooperation with DRC, comprising various aspects, including the priority task of reforming the security sector;
- recalled the existing framework for the political dialogue under Art 8 Cotonou Agreement, the EU-led coordination for ongoing SSR activities and the coordination taking place within the Consultative Group of the World Bank;
- saw the need to align these activities with the future presence of UN/MONUC and underlined the need to coordinate EU activities as well with a possible new mechanism coordinating the dialogue between the new Congolese Government and the international community at large;
- thanked the Commission for its information on the envisaged COMPACT on Governance, underlined the need for a prudent approach when communicating publicly on post electoral initiatives;
- agreed to revert to this issue in its next meeting.

Finally, the Group welcomed the mid-term progress report presented by EUSR Ajello, supported his recommendation on increase in staff, with the understanding that there are no additional financial implications beyond the existing mandate, and asked the relevant Council bodies to examine this request.

Burundi

The Group

- thanked HoMs in Bujumbura for their report and endorsed its recommendations,
- invited HoMs to propose ToRs for the envisaged political dialogue under article 8 Cotonou Agreement, to be discussed at the upcoming COAFR meeting on 5 September;
- further raised the issue of a possible EU representation in the UN Peace Building Commission for Burundi, while noting that this issue is currently dealt with by HoMs in New York and will be discussed by CONUN;
- agreed to revert to this issue at a later stage.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Group

- thanked the Secretariat for its de-briefing on the current developments in Ivory Coast and the recent meeting of the IWG;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**;
- expressed its serious concerns over the recent tensions in Abidjan preceding the IWG meeting on 20 July;
- asked HoMs in Abidjan to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Yamoussoukro road map and to report in due course.

Chad

The Group

- thanked HoMs in N'djamena for their report, taking note of the recommendation that a possible Troika mission should best be envisaged from early September onwards, as well as **NOT DECLASSIFIED** for additional information on the current situation;
- welcomed the Early warning /Early Action paper presented by the Secretariat and the Commission (coreu SEC/1474/06), underlined the need to further discuss the policy options outlined in the paper and agreed to revert to the matter after the Troika mission;
- recognized in particular the need to address the problem of the refugee camps at the Chadian-Sudanese border and agreed to come back to this issue;
- took note of the final agreement reached between the government and the World Bank on the management of oil revenues;
- asked HoMs to seek the government's agreement on the proposed ToRs for a reinforced political dialogue under Art 8 of the Cotonou Agreement (coreu SEC/1182/06);
- asked HoMs to pursue their efforts promoting an internal political dialogue in Chad preparing next year's legislative elections;
- asked HoMs to report on progress made in due course so as to prepare for an early Troika mission.

Somalia

The Group

- thanked the Commission and the **NOT DECLASSIFIED** delegation for their briefings on the meeting of the International Somalia Contact Group held in Brussels on 17 July and took note of the Communiqué of the meeting, which it fully endorsed;
- noted the UN Security Council's readiness to consider a limited modification of the arms embargo against Somalia;
- stressed the need for a continuing inclusive dialogue between the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC), with the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter and the TFIs as the only legitimate framework, as well as the need to urge all international partners to sustain conditions for dialogue;
- underlined the objective of strengthening governance structures in Somalia, including the civil administration and institutions ensuring the rule of law, as well as of establishing a broadly based security sector reform;
- thanked HoMs in Nairobi for the report on the political situation in Somalia (coreu HEL/0206/06) and concurred with the recommendations set out in the report;
- invited HoMs in Nairobi to recall the request to the UN to compile an inventory of international assistance to Somalia.

Sudan

The Group

- thanked the EUSR for his briefing on the state of play concerning the Darfur crisis and in particular the outcome of the International Conference on Darfur held on 18 July in Brussels;
- welcomed the significant support pledged at the Conference;
- stressed the need for a concerted action to proceed with the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and emphasised the central role of the UN in reinforcing AMIS in preparation for a transition to a UN force;
- further highlighted the regional dimensions of the Darfur conflict and the continuing need to address the humanitarian situation.

Eritrea

The Group

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- agreed to request HoMs in Asmara to prepare ToRs for an EU response to the travel restrictions, based on draft elements to be presented by **NOT DECLASSIFIED** and circulated by coreu for comments by partners.

NOT DECLASSIFIED.

Any Other Business

The Group will revert to the issue of the planned missions and legislative activity in relation to Article 96 of the Cotonou agreement.

The Presidency drew attention to coreu HEL/0199/06 concerning the renewal of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Presidency for the Mano River Union.

The Group took note of the request from one delegation for the deployment of an EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) to Madagascar and that the Commission was currently examining the possibilities in this regard.

The Presidency informed that the next meeting in the Group would take place on 5 September and that this additional meeting will mainly be dedicated to the preparation of the GAERC on 14-15 September.

II. OTHER POINTS

EU Strategic Partnership with South Africa

NOT DECLASSIFIED stated that the Strategic Partnership, the TDCA revision and the SADC EPA negotiations should be dealt with as a package. The main thrust of the Strategic Partnership, as outlined in the Communication, went in the right direction. It should, however, be considered as complimentary to existing relations including the bilateral and it should bring added value to these relations.

Contributions to the action plan were still being examined by the authorities, but it was suggested to start with a limited number of elements. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** recognised the need for a political initiative, the close link between the Strategic Partnership and the TDCA, welcomed and agreed with the HoMs report and stated that the Strategic Partnership rather than introducing new elements should bring about synergies in the existing relations. Council conclusions should reflect this element. The timing of the different elements (Strategic Partnership, TDCA revision and SADC EPA negotiations) was important. South African ownership and partnership of the exercise was stressed. Priorities in the action plan were being examined by the authorities. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** and **NOT DECLASSIFIED** agreed with the previous speakers. South Africa's key role in Africa was underlined, as was the question of synergies, ownership and participation. How to set the Strategic Partnership with South Africa in the context of the Strategic Partnership with Africa should also be addressed.

The Commission saw the elaboration of an Action Plan as a possibility for the EU to have a stocktaking exercise of its positions towards South Africa. Delegations were invited to contribute elements to the action plan that the Commission and the Council Secretariat would then draw up. The GAERC in October would adopt conclusions to be prepared together with the ACP Working Group. The Presidency informed about the discussions in the ACP Working Group and stated its readiness to coordinate closely on the Strategic Partnership, the TDCA revision and the SADC EPA negotiations.

DRC

As regards the upcoming elections, the Commission briefed the Group on the preparatory process being very much on track, **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. Furthermore, the Group was briefed on the status of the deploying the EU EOM (over 300 EU observers).

NOT DECLASSIFIED.

Sudan

The EUSR for Sudan briefed the Group about the outcome of the International Conference on Darfur on 18 July and the contacts held on that occasion, as well as on other recent developments. Among the points highlighted by the EUSR and during the subsequent discussion, the following can be mentioned:

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

- The EUSR and the Commission estimated the total contributions to AMIS pledged at the Conference at approximately \$ 230 million. New contributions in cash represented some 50% of this sum, including a fresh pledge from the European Commission of EUR 30 million. It was however not yet entirely clear how many of the pledges actually were of fresh money. This result was acceptable to the AU, and actually better than expected. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. Both the AU and the UN had shown a clear commitment to working together on the basis of the CONOPS developed by the AU and the results of the joint AU-UN Technical Assessment Mission.

- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

- The Conference has also underscored the importance of an early launch of the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) for the consolidation of the DPA, as well as of including groups that had not participated in the Abuja talks. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.
- The importance of the humanitarian access and the need to continue pressurising the GoS to remove all obstacles in this respect was also emphasised.
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

The **NOT DECLASSIFIED** delegation informed that the government's Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs would visit Sudan in August.

Somalia

The Commission stressed the importance of the meeting of the International Somalia Contact Group on 17 July as expression of a cohesive international voice on Somalia, not the least as regards the correspondence between EU and US views. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

The EU was ready to support the process, and the EC Delegation in Khartoum had already been invited to the negotiations. Regarding the arms embargo, the Commission stressed that the Contact Group was now clearly in favour of a partial exemption.

NOT DECLASSIFIED.

Delegations welcomed the consensus obtained in the Contact Group and reiterated the EU's support for dialogue between the TFIs and the UIC. It was necessary to deepen the dialogue initiated at the 22 June meeting in Khartoum. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

NOT DECLASSIFIED.

Finally, the **NOT DECLASSIFIED** delegation informed the group about the latest developments in the UN Security Council (UNSC), in particular the briefing by the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Somalia, Francois Fall, and the Presidential Statement of 13 July, which had clarified positions on the arms embargo. Fall planned to visit the region again later in the week, and the UNSC remained seized on developments in Somalia.

Eritrea

NOT DECLASSIFIED.

Any Other Business

Madagascar

The **NOT DECLASSIFIED** delegation informed the Group about the request from the government of Madagascar for the deployment of an EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) to the presidential elections scheduled for 3 December. Given the turmoil following the last elections and the risk of a new crisis originating from ethnic issues, as well as the support from the EU to finance the elections, the deployment of an EU EOM seem justified. The Commission found the request reasonable, but it had arrived very late. It was nevertheless examining the possibilities, financial and time-wise, for an EU EOM, and a decision could be expected by mid-September at the latest.
