



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 October 2012

**7705/08
EXT 1**

**PESC 346
COAFR 101
ACP 36
DEVGEN 37**

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ANNEX

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Brussels, 17 March 2008

**7705/08
EXT 1 (22.10.2012)**

**PESC 346
COAFR 101
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group meeting
on : 5 March 2008
in : Brussels

No. prev. doc. : 6834/08

Subject : Report

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

1. Mano River countries

The Group:

- welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Adt as Presidency Special Representative for the Mano River Basin and thanked him for the presentation of his work programme (BER/0098/08);
- welcomed the plans of Ambassador Adt to participate in the art. 96 mission to Conakry and to visit Guinea Bissau at an appropriate time, in order to increase the visibility of EU efforts in support of SSR.

2. Guinea Conakry

The Group:

- thanked HoMs for their report (PRES/LJU/0329/08) on the political situation in the country;
- welcomed the upcoming article 96 mission that will take place on 10-12 March and stressed

the importance for the mission to assess in particular progress towards the preparations for legislative elections and in the protection of human rights, in particular, the results of the commission of enquiry on the victims of the unrest in 2007;

- looked forward to the report of the mission and agreed to revert to the issue at the next meeting 2 April on the basis of its report.

3. Guinea Bissau

The Group:

- thanked HoMs for their report on the political situation in Guinea Bissau (PRES/LJU/0303/08);
- approved the proposed ToRs for political dialogue under article 8 (coreu LJU/0242/08) and encouraged HoMs to hold the first meetings without delay and to report back;
- took note of ongoing preparations for elections and of the funding gap for legislative elections planned for 2008 and encouraged Member States to consider contributing to the basket fund;
- encouraged Member States to contribute to the implementation of the Operational Plan on the fight against drugs;
- welcomed the holding of a second meeting of the Group of Friends of Guinea Bissau/SSR and took note of its report;
- stressed the importance of a coherent approach and the central role of SSR in the reforms needed in the country and the need to coordinate amongst Member States and with other international actors, in particular at the level of the PBC, as recommended in the HoMs report;
- welcomed the launch of the ESDP operation "EU SSR Guinea Bissau" and thanked the Council Secretariat for its briefing.

4. Cape Verde

The Group:

- welcomed the holding of the first Technical Follow-up Group of the EU-Cape Verde Special Partnership on 25 and 26 February 2008 and progress made towards an operational work plan and decided to remain informed of this process to facilitate input by all interested Member States;
- took note with interest of the upcoming meeting on the EU-Cape Verde Partnership on Mobility planned on 18 March 2008;

- took note of the intention of the Presidency to hold an EU-Cape Verde Ministerial troika in May 2008.

5. Trial of Hissène Habré

The Group:

- thanked the Commission and Mr. Cathala for the report of the EU mission to Senegal on 21-25 January;
 - welcomed the good disposition of the Senegalese authorities to conduct the trial of Hissène Habré and preparations already made to this effect;
 - welcomed the association of the AU Special Representative for this trial, Mr. Robert Dossou, and encouraged close cooperation with the AU in this dossier;
 - **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
-
- agreed to share the report with interested international partners and to brief interested NGOs, at the appropriate time after a dialogue has been established with the Senegalese authorities.
 - looked forward to a generous participation in a future donor conference to support this trial.

6. Zimbabwe

The Group:

- thanked HOMs in Harare for their report;
- discussed the situation in the country in the run-up to the elections on 29 March;
- agreed with the recommendations set out in the HOMs report;
- agreed to continue to pursue efforts to engage SADC governments and to this effect instructed HOMs in Gaborone and in other SADC capitals to undertake demarches with the SADC Secretariat and SADC governments to this effect;
- noted the invitation by the Commission (COM/0034/08) for Member States to provide information before 17 March on bilateral assistance provided to Zimbabwe in 2007.

7. Chad

The Group:

- thanked Amb. Georg Lennkh for his update on the political situation in Chad, including the results of the high level visit to N'jamena last week;
- took note of the decision of President Deby to establish the Commission of Inquiry and requires further information/clarification on the purpose and the composition;
- took note of the situation of two of the three opposition leaders with Ibni Oumar Mahamat Saleh still missing and emphasised the importance of re-launching the dialogue with the political opposition as soon as possible, in particular to resume work in the "Comité de suivi" of the 13 August 2007 Agreement;
- took note of the extension of the state of emergency until 15 March and expressed concern that civil liberties and freedom of press remain curtailed;
- requested the EUSR for Sudan to accompany and reinforce African mediation efforts with Sudan through all available channels;
- welcomed the Senegal initiative to organise a meeting between the Chadian and Sudanese President Deby and El-Bashir with the aim of improving the bilateral relations between the two countries and the AU initiative (Libya and Rep. Congo) to foster contacts between the government and the rebel groups;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

8. Kenya

The Group:

- thanked HoMs in Nairobi for their reports (LJU/0313/08 and LJU/0330/08);
- welcomed the power-sharing agreement of 28 February between President Kibaki and Raila Odinga and agreed to fully support the implementation of this agreement while remaining vigilant as to its effective implementation;
- noted that the Kenyan Parliament is invited to approve the National Accord and

- Reconciliation Act 2008 as soon as it reconvenes after the opening ceremony on 6 March;
- stressed the importance of full and fair implementation of the agreement, to ensure "meaningful power-sharing";
 - noted that the Kenyan parties have yet to agree on how to address long term issues in Kenya;
 - stressed the importance of HoMs maintaining consultations with civil- and business society;
 - agreed with HoMs' suggestion that the report of the EU Electoral Observation Mission be released soon and in time to provide input into the Electoral Review Commission;
 - encouraged HoMs to continue to monitor the process closely, including the establishment of a monitoring group on the implementation of the power-sharing agreement and the schedule of activities that should be drawn up;
 - agreed that high-level contacts with the government of Kenya can be resumed, but that the importance of the implementation of the power-sharing agreement of 28 February should be stressed in all such contacts.

9. Eritrea - Ethiopia

The Group

- thanked HoMs in Asmara and in Addis Ababa for their reports (LJU/0314/08, LJU/0315/08);
- stressed the need to avoid action that could put UN staff in danger or undermine the credibility of UN peace keeping operations.

10. Ethiopia - situation in the Ogaden

The Group

- thanked **NOT DECLASSIFIED** delegation for its briefing on the situation in the Ogaden;
- instructed HoMs in Addis Ababa to further gather information about the preoccupying situation in the Ogaden region and to report back at their earliest convenience, including recommendations for constructive EU action;
- instructed HoMs in Addis Ababa to report about possible concrete EU-support for UN-initiatives in the Ogaden.

11. Cameroon

The Group:

- thanked HoMs for their report (CFSP/PRES/LJU/0325/08) on the situation in the country;
- expressed concern about the constitutional and economical problems, leading to strikes, looting and instability, causing several deaths, deeply deplored by the Group;

- hoped that national dialogue on the underlying causes of the conflict would help to finding a solution for the current situation;
- agreed with the recommendations made by the HOMs and asked them to follow the situation in Cameroon closely, as appropriate, notably by taking a demarche with the authorities, ahead of early March discussion in the National Assembly on the revision of the constitution and on recent events on the basis of the outcome of the demarche, prepare a possible EU declaration;
- recalling the guidance for conducting Article 8 political dialogue with ACP countries (CFSP/SEC/1450/07), invited the HOMs to intensify their dialogue at the earliest possible occasion, concentrating on following elements: need for an enquiry on recent events, importance of national dialogue on the underlying causes of the unrest and the proposed revision of the constitution, and looked forward to the report.

12. Uganda

The Group:

- received a presentation by the EUSR (CFSP/SEC/0455/08 COR 1) and had a discussion about the five agreements signed in Juba, between the LRA and the GOU and the recent prolongation of the cessation of hostilities agreement, all of which are intended to constitute the Final Peace Agreement (FPA);
- welcomed these agreements as an important basis for peace in Uganda and Northern Uganda in particular and agreed that both parties would need to be encouraged to sign the FPA before 28 March forthcoming and ensure that the provisions of the agreement will be fully implemented, including as regards DDR and the fight against impunity;
- underlined the importance of enhanced high level coordination within the EU and with international partners on the issues related to the Juba peace talks;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

13. Burundi

The Group:

- thanked the EUSR for the Great Lakes for the presentation of his report on the Special Envoys

meeting in Cape Town, 22-23 February 2008 (COREU CFSP/SEC/0385/08) and welcomed the renewed South African engagement in the process;

- thanked the local Presidency for its report on the first meeting of the Political Directorate for Burundi on 1 March 2008 [PRES/LJU/0324/08];
- considered that, in order to support the South African Facilitation, a basic common political line, as suggested by the EUSR (part II.3 of the COREU), would be maintained and that the EU would ensure support to the Facilitation in the Political Directorate;
- underlined the importance of keeping a regional perspective for sustainable peace in the Great Lakes region.

14. AOB

Angola

Portugal informed about the recent visit of its Minister for Foreign Affairs to Angola.

Congratulation to the new AU Commission

Presidency informed that it sent a letter of congratulation to the new AU Commission in the week following its election.

CAERT (African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism)

Presidency informed that no agreement could be found in COTER on amending joint action on EU support of CAERT (African Centre for Study and Research on Terrosism). The Presidency emphasized that this support, that started already in 2005, would be first couter-terrorism project to be financed under the CFSP budget and is also among priority actions of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy's Action Plan (2008-2010).

II. OTHER POINTS

Mano River countries

Mr. Adt thanked the Presidency and MS for their trust in his nomination as Presidency Special Representative for the Mano River countries. He announced his missions to Conakry (on 10-13 March, follow-up to art. 96 consultations) and Bissau. It is an important moment to visit Guinea as current developments demand constant EU engagement as regards the organisation of elections and the results of the enquiry commission on the victims of the 2007 unrest. In Guinea Bissau, elections

are also planned, an ESDP operation will be launched soon and the PBC is strongly engaged. For these reasons, contact in a sustained way with the authorities is necessary. Liberia and Sierra Leone will also be visited shortly. ICG on the Mano River Union will meet this semester, probably towards the end of April. Local elections are upcoming in Sierra Leone and will also demand the EU attention. PSR Adt also plans contacts with ECOWAS, AU, UN and will report often to COAFR.

Guinea Bissau

The Presidency proposed to approve the ToRs for political dialogue and recalled that the international community is supporting the country in three main ways: through the PBC, the UNODC sponsored plan against drugs and support to SSR, where the EU is taking a leading role. Guinea Bissau will be often in the COAFR agenda, to facilitate coordination amongst EU actors and also with the International Community.

The Cion. briefed about the preparations for elections and political developments in Bissau. The date for legislative elections is still uncertain, but there are indications that it could be moved to 2009 (which could make them coincide with Presidential elections). A funding gap remains for the organisation of legislative elections, including the arrears of members of the National Electoral Commission. The Lisbon conference triggered donor support for the Plan of action against drugs. In Bissau, discussions are ongoing between the Minister for Justice and UNODC to set up the structures that will sustain its implementation. A second meeting of the Group of Friends of Guinea Bissau in January 2008 gathered the main donors and gave an overview of existing support. On 17-21 March, OECD will organise in-country consultations on SSR. Instrument for Stability experts are now working on the ground on the census with UNDP, the link with DDR (pension funds and demobilisation), and working with local SSR structures. Guinea Bissau has been chosen as pilot case to follow-up on the Council Conclusions on fragility and on Security and Development.

SEC presented the ESDP operation and referred to the ownership of the Government's reform plans. The thrust of the ESDP mission is to help refine the National SSR strategy so that it is easier to implement. The mission will be limited in time (12 months), and consist of 15 international advisers in the justice, police and military fields to work side by side with Ministries and security forces to help develop the reforms and some capacity of the local structures (e.g. interpol, judicial police). This will be complementary with other international activities. The HoM and advance team will be deployed mid-April to work on the OPLAN and set up the conditions for the entire mission

(39 staff) to be deployed. The mission also needs to find out if there is a role for ESDP in the implementation phase of the SSR Strategy, in close coordination with other actors. This is the first civilian mission with military expertise and a military HoM, which will test existing procedures. Master messages have been published and should be by the EU Institutions and by MS to communicate about the mission.

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Guinea Conakry

The Presidency reported about the results of the ACP Working Party (which discussed the Commission proposal to prolong consultations). The date for elections may be announced during the art. 96 mission. Once the report of the mission is available, a discussion in substance will take place.

The Cion replying to questions by Member States clarified that the contribution from the EDF to the UNDP basket fund for the organisation of the elections is 10,5 MEUR. Other contributions finance the CENI. The Parliament of Guinea has ratified the Cotonou Agreement.

The HoM report confirms that there has been progress in the preparations for elections, but technical operations need to continue. The Government has celebrated its first year in office **NOT DECLASSIFIED** The situation remains complex.

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Cape Verde

The presidency referred to a very positive meeting of the Technical Follow-up Group of the EU-Cape Verde Special Partnership on 25 and 26 February 2008 and announced the dates of the Ministerial troika (28th May in Brussels) and the upcoming meeting on the EU-Cape Verde partnership on Mobility planned on 18 March 2008 (as one of two pilot countries together with Moldova). Meetings of the local group for the implementation of the Strategy will take place to prepare for the Ministerial troika.

The Commission briefed on the detail of the meeting, that served to give momentum to the implementation of the Special Partnership. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

In reply to **NOT DECLASSIFIED**, it was clarified that the local group will include as a minimum the troika format, as several MS have indicated an interest in participating. The Cion and the Presidency will coordinate to keep all MS involved.

NOT DECLASSIFIED intends to participate in the technical group in Brussels and the local follow-up group.

Trial of Hissène Habré

The Presidency recalled the context in which the mission to Senegal took place and thanked **NOT DECLASSIFIED** for providing high level expertise **NOT DECLASSIFIED**. The Presidency was also very pleased that the AU was associated to this mission, through the participation of the Special Representative for this trial, Mr. Robert Dossou. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

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Zimbabwe

NOT DECLASSIFIED

NOT DECLASSIFIED

Chad

Amb. Lennkh briefed on the results of the high level visit (French President and Foreign Minister, Commissioner Michel, Secretary General OIF) in N'djamena last week which aimed at re-launching the political dialogue in the framework of the 13 August 2007 Agreement.

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Kenya

Some delegations highlighted challenges ahead in the implementation of the political agreement of 28 February **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

The Kenyan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wetangula, will visit Europe next week. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

A delegation underlined the importance of further feedback from SG/HR Solana and Commissioner Michel in case of further contacts with Kofi Annan.

Ethiopia - situation in the Ogaden

Several delegations expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

A delegation informed that its minister for development cooperation had visited the Ogaden region recently and had perceived some positive signs from the side of the authorities. A possible statement should be balanced and include positive developments as well.

A delegation noted that the UN had initiated a process with the Ethiopian authorities regarding the Ogaden region, and that the UN would act as an umbrella organisation for NGOs active in the region. The EU should not create a parallel track to the UN.