



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 October 2012

**10708/06
EXT 1**

**PESC 609
COAFR 129
ACP 96
DEVGEN 173**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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



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**Brussels, 20 June 2006
(OR. en)**

ANNEX

**10708/06
EXT 1 (22.10.2012)**

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group meeting
on : 31 May 2006
in : Brussels

No. prev. doc. : 9863/06

Subject : Report

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

Migration

The Group

- reiterated that the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development should be complementary to the to regional conference in Rabat and possible further regional conferences;
- agreed to accept in principle the invitation to such a conference extended through the AU and requested the Presidency to reply, leaving the venue and the date open to further discussion;
- agreed on holding a preparatory troika meeting on this conference with the African side;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- agreed on the importance of Algerian participation in the Rabat conference;
- took note of a briefing by the Commission on their first Article 13 meetings with Mauritania and Senegal;
- looked forward to elaborate terms of reference for a systematic dialogue on the basis of a concept paper to be submitted by the Commission;
- further agreed to request HoMs in four East African countries to explore the possibilities for informal Article 13 discussions;
- agreed to revert to the matter at the next meeting of the AWG.

Sudan

The Group

- had an exchange of views on the prospects of the DPA and the next steps to be taken by the international community and in particular the EU. In this context, it was briefed by the Netherlands on the state of play regarding the envisaged Darfur reconstruction donor conference to be held in September 2006;
 - took note with appreciation of the activity report presented by EUSR Haavisto (coreu SEC/1160/06);
 - in response to tasking of the PSC on 23 May, discussed concrete proposals for amendments to adapt the mandate of the EUSR in order to take full account of the EU role foreseen in the DPA and in this regard recommended a set of specific amendments to articles 2 and 3 of the Joint Action;
 - reconfirming the need for a permanent presence of the EUSR in Khartoum, recommended the appointment of a political advisor to be based in Khartoum and that in this respect the possible synergies in connection with the advisor being accommodated in the Commission delegation in Khartoum should be examined with the Commission. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
-
- requested the Presidency to transmit to the PSC the conclusions of the discussion on this issue in an “outcome of proceedings” document **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Chad

The Group

- took note of recent developments since the elections on 3 May as well as of the proposal of draft ToRs for a reinforced political dialogue under Art 8/Cotonou Agreement;
- underlined the need to further explore possibilities of another Troika mission to N'djamena; **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Mano River Union

The Group

- thanked the Presidency Special Representative Hans Dahlgren for his report on his mission to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia on 14-18 May and on the results of the International Contact Group on the Mano River Basin held in Vienna on 23 May 2006;
- discussed the recent developments in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and endorsed the recommendations made by PSR Dahlgren.

Ethiopia-Eritrea

The Group

- took note of the inconclusive meeting of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) that took place in London on 17 May and of the ongoing debate on the mandate of the UNMEE in the UN Security Council;
- agreed to revert to the matter at the next meeting of the AWG;
- noted the resumption of the Article 8 dialogue with the authorities of Eritrea.

Somalia

The Group

- addressed recent events, agreed on the need to now give priority attention to developments in Somalia and invited HoMs in Nairobi to step up their reporting on Somalia, as well as to provide concrete proposals on how to follow up on the EU Comprehensive Strategy on Somalia;
- further invited HoMs to activate the local Contact Group;
- took note of the Presidency's intention to consider the appropriateness of issuing an EU statement on recent developments in Somalia, and also requested the Presidency to raise with HoMs in Nairobi the possibility to contact the US concerning their position in this respect;
- agreed to revert to the matter at the next meeting of the AWG.

Nigeria/Cameroon

The Group

- took note of the ongoing activities (Nigeria, Cameroon, the Commission, in the UN) with a view to an early settlement of the Bakassi dispute;
- agreed that an EU statement at this stage is not called for;
- agreed to follow events closely and to revert to the matter at a future meeting of the AWG

Togo

The Group took note of the briefing by the Commission concerning the state of play of the national dialogue.

DRC

The Group

- took note of the report by EUSR and endorsed his recommendations;
- took note of the progress made as regards the preparations of the EUFOR deployment, in particular the agreement of the SOFA with DRC, ongoing SOFA negotiations with Gabon and for a transit arrangement with Rep of Congo;
- welcomed overall progress in the preparation of elections **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- appealed to the Commission to review its planning concerning the election observation mission **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- requested HoMs in Kinshasa to report on the present state and the possibilities of recruiting a sufficient number (150) of qualified election observers locally.

Madagascar

The Group:

- thanked the HoMs for their report (PAR/0131/06) on the evolution of justice and the situation in the prisons in Madagascar;
- noted that the date for the Presidential elections had been moved forward to 3 December this year;
- noted the intention of the local Presidency to organise a political dialogue meeting on 20 June to discuss the elections and the new action plan proposed by the Minister of Justice and its intention to invite non-resident accredited HoMs to attend the meeting;
- invited the Presidency to formalise this initiative and circulate invitations via coreu;
- expressed its support for the actions already undertaken by the HoMs in an article 8 context.

EU-SADC

The Group

- took note of the briefing by the Presidency;
- agreed to revert to the question concerning funding of the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare under the EDF at the next meeting of the Group. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

South Africa

The Group:

- was briefed by the Commission on the present state of preparations concerning the communication on the EU Strategy for South Africa expected to be adopted by the Commission on 28 June;
- in preparation for a discussion of the Commission communication in the Group in July, invited HoMs in Pretoria to prepare a reflection paper on elements that in their opinion should be covered by an EU Strategy for South Africa taking into account the Commission communication, and submitting a report not later than a week before the meeting of the AWG on 19 July.

Any Other Business

EU-Africa Ministerial Troika

The Group

- heard a briefing by the Presidency on the EU Africa Ministerial Troika meeting;
- took note of the Communiqué of this meeting;
- welcomed the announcement of the incoming Presidency to follow up on these matters;
- welcomed the intention of the Commission and the Council Secretariat to agree by mid-June with the AU Commission on an updated version of the Joint Implementation Matrix.

EU-ECOWAS

The Group took note of the briefing by the Presidency on the EU-ECOWAS Ministerial Troika meeting on 22 May 2006 and the communiqué issued from the meeting.

Article 8 Dialogue

The Group took note of and thanked HoMs for their reports on article 8 dialogue with: Zambia (VIE/0833/06), Eritrea (VIE/0788/06), Cameroon (VIE/0776/06), Kenya (VIE/0748/06), Sudan (VIE/0696/06), Uganda (VIE/0628/06), Mauritania (VIE/0621/06), Gabon (VIE/0602/06) and Mozambique (VIE/0574/06).

Hissène Habré

The Group invited The Netherlands and Belgium circulate a coreu with elements for a demarche to be undertaken before the AU Summit in Banjul to the AU Presidency and certain important African countries concerning the situation of Hissène Habré.

Zimbabwe

The Group agreed to put Zimbabwe on the agenda of the next meeting of the AWG in preparation for a possible discussion of the situation in the country at the July GAERC.

II. OTHER POINTS

Migration

The Group discussed the timing of the different conferences on migration. Presidency informed the Group that Algeria wished to push forward the pan-African Conference on migration and that Libya had proposed to host the conference and proposed dates. The EU had indicated that it would prefer the conference to take place after the UN HLWG and now the AU had confirmed this planning

NOT DECLASSIFIED

A preparatory meeting before the Rabat Conference would take place in Dakar 5-7 June. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Delegations underlined the importance of coherence and consistency of the Rabat conference with other EU actions and initiatives. They agreed that the EU should express its political support to the outcome of the Rabat conference through a Presidency statement and that the conferences would constitute a global "package", where the pan-African conference would make the results of the regional conferences come together.

NOT DECLASSIFIED wished to have the action plan and the outcome of the Dakar meeting discussed at the next AWG.

The Commission informed about the article 13 missions to Senegal and Mauritania. The meetings in both countries had been open and positive. Both countries had shown themselves willing to cooperate. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Detailed coreus about the missions would be circulated.

NOT DECLASSIFIED supported by others wished to have Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea incorporated in the article 13 dialogue meetings the Commission was undertaking. Suggested that HoMs in these countries meet in June to assess feasibility for launching such dialogue meetings.

The Commission informed the meeting that other countries identified for article 13 dialogues include Mali, Niger, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. It supported **NOT DECLASSIFIED** suggestion to assess feasibility of dialogue with the countries in the Horn of Africa and indicated that Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda could also be considered by HoMs on the same basis.

Sudan

The EUSR for Sudan informed the Group about the situation following the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) and his recent meetings and activities:

As regards the DPA and the efforts to get the remaining rebel movements to sign the agreement, the EUSR emphasised that the EU has worked intensively to get all to join in and to have all relevant countries to work in the same direction. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

On the Darfur-Darfur dialogue, the EUSR informed that the AU had now started preparations for the appointment of a senior African figure to preside the dialogue and was also looking into convening the Preparatory Committee. Delegations concurred with the importance of the Darfur-Darfur dialogue and the involvement of civil society, various tribes, Arab nomads, etc. The importance of coordinating Member States' support to the process was also underlined.

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Some delegations also commented on the joint Commission-Secretariat "road-map" for EU action in support of the DPA. It was stressed that it was crucial that Member States, Commission and the Secretariat were on the same line in this matter and that future Presidencies presented ideas on how to organise initiatives.

One delegation raised the question whether it would be possible to have more frequent meetings dedicated solely to Sudan.

Chad

The Commission briefed on recent developments following the elections on 3 May, underlining the need to start now a process of launching the internal political dialogue in Chad; furthermore, the Commission informed on the state of play regarding possibilities of budgetary aid under the 9th EDF which was currently blocked due to reasons of form and substance. The draft ToRs for a reinforced political dialogue under Art 8 Cotonou Agreement were welcomed by **NOT DECLASSIFIED** underlining, however, that this should not become a bureaucratic exercise.

Mano River Union

Following the report on his recent visit to the region, the Group endorsed the recommendations made by SRP Dahlgren:

NOT DECLASSIFIED

Ethiopia-Eritrea

NOT DECLASSIFIED

One delegation noted the resumption of the Article 8 dialogue with Eritrea and recent HoMs meetings in Asmara and stressed the importance of maintaining the momentum.

Somalia

NOT DECLASSIFIED

DRC

NOT DECLASSIFIED

The EUSR shared recently received information with the Group concerning the election calendar, according to which the provisional result of the elections would be announced on 2 September, to be followed by a definitive declaration of the result on 14 September. Then, if necessary, the preparation of the second tour would start and the election would be on 15 October. The winner would however only be announced on 30 November.
