



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 October 2012**

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EXT 1**

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

  

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**ANNEX**

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 July 2004  
(OR. en)**

**11548/04  
EXT 1 (22.10.2012)**

**PESC 649  
COAFR 99  
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**OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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from : Africa Working Group meeting

on : 6-7 July 2004

in : Brussels

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Subject : Report

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**I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS**

**1. EU-Africa Relations**

- The Group thanked the Presidency (HAG 0335/04) for its presentation;
- The Group endorsed the programme and schedule of meetings as presented by the Presidency;
- Agreed that HIV/AIDS should feature prominently on the agenda, also from a capacity building point of view;
- Emphasised the need to strengthen the dialogue with Nigeria, being the incoming AU as well as ECOWAS Presidency;
- The Group discussed the preparation of the JSC meeting and agreed on the need to enter dialogue with SADC with an open mind both on the format and location on the suggested presidency intervention for the Joint Steering Committee.

## 2. ECOWAS

### The Group

- thanked the Commission for the Report on the EU/UN Joint mission to ECOWAS and expressed appreciation for its contents. The report has provided member states with a thorough insight in ECOWAS capacity in the field of peace and security;
- agreed to give concrete follow-up to the report back on the AWG agenda as soon as Executive Secretary Chambas has formally reacted to it;
- underscored the importance of the role and value of ECOWAS in the conflict-prone West African region. ECOWAS' comparative advantage lies in the area of conflict management;
- agreed that the EU should support ECOWAS in developing an integrated vision and strategy on peace building and conflict prevention;
- emphasised the urgent need for improved donor co-ordination;
- agreed that in order to strategically engage with ECOWAS, political dialogue will need to take place not only with the Secretariat in Abuja, but also with the Council of Ministers and the Conference of Heads of State and Government. HOMs should be instructed accordingly.
- took note with satisfaction of the approval of the Terms of Reference for the EU-ECOWAS political dialogue.
- agreed to ask HoMs in the ECOWAS capitals to consult Governments on the preferred agenda items for the EU-ECOWAS meeting on 4 September, in the absence of a Senior Official level meeting preceding the Ministerial meeting.
- underlined the importance of formulating Council Conclusions on West Africa.

## 3. Côte d'Ivoire

### The Group

- expressed its deep concern at the development of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and expressed its view that the EU should make a joint effort to contribute to the restoration of peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire;
- had an exchange of views on the possibility and appropriateness of various instruments which are available under EU instruments;
- was of the opinion that at this point in time, opinions are evolving and there is no consensus on how to apply the different instruments at the EU's disposal;
- requested the Presidency to prepare proposals for short and long term EU actions with the aim to bring the situation forward, taking into account other initiatives by the international community and the need to engage with a variety of Ivorian actors. These proposals should be prepared with a view to hold a discussion in the next AWG meeting.

#### **4. Nigeria**

The Group

- thanked HoMs in Abuja for their general outline of the political situation in Nigeria (DUB 1470/04 and DUB 1439/04);
- thanked HoMs for the way in which they have intensified the dialogue with various groups and levels of government and society in Nigeria and agreed with HoMs that this intensive political dialogue should continue.

#### **5. Ghana**

The Group

- thanked HoMs in Accra for their outline of the political situation in Ghana (DUB 1457/04);
- expressed the wish that HoMs in Accra continue reporting on the ongoing dialogue on a regular and flexible basis, including also civil society organisations.

#### **6. Togo**

The Group

- thanked the local presidency in Lomé (Germany) for the report on the EU mission to Togo (DUB/1309/04);
- expressed its concern at the delays in the national dialogue in Togo and underlined the importance of working on the preparation of legislative elections without delay;
- expressed its desire to see more visible results in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- invited HOMs to carry out a renewed appraisal of the situation. The analysis should evaluate the report of the Togolese authorities (HAG/0349/04) and the situation in Togo and should suggest possible courses of action.

#### **7. Guinea**

The Group

- welcomed the plan to hold an Art. 96 consultations meeting with Guinea on 20 July in Brussels;
- took note of the delay in finalising the consultations caused by Guinea and subsequent agenda problems;
- expressed its concern at the worsening political, social and economic situation in Guinea.

## 8. Cameroon

### The Group

- thanked **NOT DECLASSIFIED** for raising the issue of an Electoral Observation Mission to Cameroon;
- endorsed the Commission's view on the need to focus on a moderately limited number of EU Election Observation Missions;
- expressed its concern over the general lack of transparency of the elections in Cameroon;
- requested HoMs in Yaoundé to prepare a report on the political situation in the country with a view to the upcoming presidential elections;
- acknowledged that there was a group of four member states in favour of sending an EU Election Observation Mission to the presidential elections in Cameroon.

## 9. Central African Republic

### The Group:

- thanked France and the Commission for the information received (PAR/0398/04 and COM0236/04);
- agreed that CEMAC deserved to be supported in its actions to stabilise the Central African Republic;
- requested HOMs in Bangui to report about the present situation, including an estimate of the effectiveness of the present CEMAC force ;
- stated its respect for the procedures concerning the operationalisation of the Peace Facility.

## 10. Swaziland

### The Group

- reaffirmed its conclusions from the meeting on 29-30 March 2004 **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- invited HOMs to advice on further action including Article 96 consultations after the planned meetings with the authorities on 19 and 21 July as well as revision of the country allocation under EDF 9;
- The Group agreed that the Presidency should also express the concern of the EU at the EU-SADC Joint Steering Committee meeting on 8 July.

## 11. Malawi

### The Group

- thanked HOMs for their report on the elections (DUB/1372/04 COR 1). It noted that the final report from the election observation mission was still being elaborated and agreed to revert to the matter in the AWG when it was available.

## 12. Zimbabwe

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

Presidency will instruct HOMs in Harare to elaborate a report on the position to be adopted by the EU in light of upcoming events in Zimbabwe, bearing in mind amongst others the questions raised in the Commission Services paper on Zimbabwe (DUB/1145/04). Presidency will circulate TORs for such a report via coreu.

The Group once again thanked the Commission for its paper and agreed to revert to an in-depth discussion of it at the September AWG meeting in light of the requested HOMs report.

## 13/14/15. DRC - Burundi - Rwanda

The Group agreed to postpone the discussion of these items till the Directors' meeting on 20 July. On Rwanda it was also agreed extend the deadline for the declaration in HAG/0358/04 with 24 hours till 8 July 13.00 Z. The Group also noted that Belgian FM Michel had invited the Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the three countries to a meeting in Belgium to revive the "Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPLG)". Michel intended to inform the GAERC on 12 July on the outcome of this meeting.

## 16. Somalia

The Group

- expressed continued political and financial support for the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference (SNRC);
- welcomed a British proposal to host a meeting on 19th of July to discuss EU support for the reconciliation process;
- thanked HoMs for their report on the developments in relation to the Reconciliation Process and suggestions on the way forward for the EU (HAG 0322/04);
- took note of HoMs recommendations and invited them to further elaborate their suggestions.

## 17. Ethiopia-Eritrea

The Group

- expressed concern at the stalemate in the border demarcation process and agreed that the EU should continue to put pressure on both sides;
- asked the Presidency to prepare a package of positive and negative measures, which should include benchmarks and a time frame for further action to be discussed with HOMs in Addis Ababa. Presidency will work on the matter in consultation with the Commission and other partners;
- requests the Presidency to circulate draft ToR for elements of such a package;
- expressed its continued support for the mission of UNSE Axworthy. Presidency will should liaise with him and consult him on the preparation of package measures;
- agreed that EU Presidency should produce an evaluation of Kofi Annan's visit to Addis Ababa and Asmara;

- invited SITCEN to prepare a report on the arms purchases;
- agreed to request a report from HOMs on the arms purchases;
- requests the Presidency to circulate draft ToR for a demarche to both governments on arms purchases, which should, however, be embedded in the wider concern about the development of the situation between both countries;
- agreed that ToRs for demarches should be co-ordinated with US that mostly shares the EU's view on this matter.
- the EU should liaise with those members of the international community who are active in the sale of arms.

## **18. Sudan**

The Group

- agreed on the text of draft Council Conclusions on Sudan;
- welcomed the respective HoM's reports (DUB 1388/04 and 1383/04).

## **AOB Angola**

The Group welcomed the statement by the Council of the Republic on elections in Angola and asked HOMs in Luanda to make an assessment of the significance of this statement and of an appropriate EU response.

## **II. OTHER POINTS**

### **1. Presidency programme**

1.1. Presidency stressed her desire to increase EU dialogue with West Africa as the reason for the proposed informal ministerial meeting with ECOWAS on 4 September. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

1.2. Presidency also referred to her intention to mainstream HIV/AIDS in political dialogue. Apart from The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and France have appointed special ambassadors on HIV/AIDS. On conflict prevention and resolution, Presidency observed that access of humanitarian staff to conflict areas was also on the agenda of the Deputy SG.

1.3. On the EU-SADC dialogue, Presidency stressed the importance of entering dialogue with an open mind both on the format and location. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## 2. ECOWAS

2.1. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** underlined three areas of specific concern about ECOWAS, (i) the difficulties of the ECOWAS Secretariat to take in charge its own planning and analysis capabilities, (ii) the little progress on the MOU between ECOWAS and the AU and (iii) the recommendation of the Joint Mission Report that the peace fund should be seen as a part of a broader future programme. Sweden stressed that EU countries should work together when relating with ECOWAS secretariat in Abuja and take into account that ECOWAS is a member state-driven driven organisation. Hence, HOMs should be asked to report on views held in different capitals.

2.2. The Commission supported **NOT DECLASSIFIED** points and added that it would be convenient to undertake demarches in ECOWAS capitals to ensure that they agree with the EU's view of the dialogue. It also proposed that the EU participated in the donor coordination meeting that the AU will hold in the Autumn with its international partners and with African subregional organisations, which should allow for enhanced co-ordination between sub-regional and continental level.". Presidency stressed that, since there were no senior officials' meetings with ECOWAS, HOMs should be instructed to intensify dialogue with ECOWAS in preparation for ministerial meetings.

## 3. Côte d'Ivoire

3.1. The Presidency introduced the item stressing that the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis (LM) was a priority and welcoming the talks between Gbagbo and opposition leaders. The Group had an exchange of views on the opportunity of launching Art. 96 consultations. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**



3.3. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

#### 4. Nigeria

4.1. Presidency observed that HOMs have intensified the political dialogue with Nigeria. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

#### 5. Ghana

5.1. The outcome of the discussion is reflected in the operational conclusions.

#### 6. Togo

6.1. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** (supported by **NOT DECLASSIFIED**) also argued in favour of sending a second mission to Lomé. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** proposed that the report of the Togolese government be itself the object of a report by HOMs and that the EU give technical support for the efforts that the Togolese government has undertaken on decentralisation and census. The Commission concurred with **NOT DECLASSIFIED** on the need for a HOMs report assessing the Togolese answers on implementation of the Art 96 questionnaire. Commission informed that there were funds available to support the census but not for decentralisation. The Group took note of visits by President of the National Assembly and of the LTDH (*Ligue Togolaise des Droits de l'Homme*) to the Council Secretariat and the Commission.

#### 7. Guinea

7.1. The outcome of the discussion is reflected in the operational conclusions.

## 8. Cameroon

8.1. The Group had an exchange of views on **NOT DECLASSIFIED** proposal to send an election observation mission to Cameroon. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## 9. Central African Republic

9.1. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** argued in favour of supporting the request by CEMAC to have the FOMUC operation in Central African Republic financed by the Peace Facility. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** underlined that CEMAC plays an important role in the stabilisation of the Central African Republic and this will be even more the case in the preparation for the elections. She insisted that the EU should start studying the request for financing the FOMUC, otherwise there was a risk that the issue would be delayed until after the start of the electoral period (September/October). The need for AU authorisation should not be suspensory.

9.2. The Commission informed that the AU was discussing the issue and stressed the importance of respecting the principle of African ownership.

## 10. Swaziland

10.1. The Group noted that the next political dialogue meeting with the authorities was planned for 19 July and that a HOMs meeting with the Prime Minister was planned for 21 July. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## **11. Malawi**

11.1. The outcome of the discussion is reflected in the operational conclusions.

## **12. Zimbabwe**

12. 1. The Group noted and discussed the outcome of the demarches carried out in different SADC capitals on the elections in Zimbabwe, in particular the comments that had been made concerning the application of the SADC Parliamentary Forum norms and standards. On the basis of an oral report by the UK, the Group also had an exchange of views on the situation in Zimbabwe, on the interpretation of the actions undertaken by the government of Zimbabwe in preparation for the upcoming elections and the future of a dialogue with the country. The fact that Nigeria would take over the Presidency of the AU was mentioned as a positive factor in this context, since President Obasanjo previously had taken a positive interest in the developments in Zimbabwe.

## **13/14/15. DRC - Burundi - Rwanda**

See operational conclusions above

## **16. Somalia**

16.1. Presidency introduced the subject observing that the reconciliation process had gained momentum. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## **17. Ethiopia/Eritrea**

17.1. The Group had a exchange of views on the stalemate in the border conflict **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## **18. Sudan**

18.1. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** informed that the AU mission was blocked in Al-Fasher. The Commission informed that the disbursement of the Peace Facility Funds would take in one or two weeks, and that retroactive funding was contemplated, so it was a problem of cash flow for the AU. The Policy Unit informed that the mission was not blocked due to financial problems but because of the lack of necessary infrastructures (tents, medical facilities). Missions have already been sent to investigate the sites of other bases and it is likely that teams will be moving by next week. Political talks will start in Addis Ababa on 15 July. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

## **AOB: Angola**

**NOT DECLASSIFIED** informed that the Council of the Republic, Angola's highest consultative body had stated that Angola should have Parliamentary and Presidential elections no later than September 2006. The EU should welcome this development and ask HOMs in Luanda to look at the question. A detailed calendar needs to be elaborated.

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