



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 October 2012

**16304/03
EXT 1**

**PESC 821
COAFR 151
ACP 166
DEVGEN 170**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	16304/03 RESTREINT UE
dated:	8 January 2004
new status:	Public
Subject:	Report

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



ANNEX

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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 8 January 2004 (08.01)
(OR. en)**

**16304/03
EXT 1 (25.10.2012)**

**PESC 821
COAFR 151
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Africa Working Group meeting
on : 9-10 December 2003
in : Brussels

No. prev. doc. : 15555/03

Subject : Report

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

EU-Africa Dialogue

Way forward - preparation of upcoming meetings:

- The Group welcomed the proposal by the incoming Irish Presidency on the holding of an Officials' Troika meeting in February 2004. The proposed agenda will comprise the four clusters agreed upon in Rome and on the debt issue the chefs de file with their experts will be invited. At this meeting the EU side will seek clarification on the final African position on the Action Plan on Trafficking in human beings.
- The incoming Irish Presidency will circulate, in due time, its proposals for an agreement on the Terms of Reference concerning the mandate of the Officials' Troika Meeting, planned for February 2004.

Peace Facility:

- The Group reached large consensus on the political aspects of the Peace Facility. The aim of the discussion was to provide a basis/general guidelines for the Commission financing proposal to be submitted at the beginning of 2004.

- The Group approved the objectives of the Facility (support to African efforts in the domain of peace and security/ownership, solidarity, creation of sustainable conditions for development).
- Concerning the political aspects of the implementation and essential elements for the decision-making process there was general agreement that a flexible approach was needed in order to allow for a rapid and effective implementation by African organisations, both regional and sub-regional. In this respect there was shared opinion that, as a rule, a UN and AU endorsement will be sought.
- In procedural terms the Presidency informed the Group that it will assess after the next ACP meeting on 16/12 whether and how to address the issue in the agenda of COREPER.

Election Observation Priorities

- The Group took note of the Commission's priorities mentioned in Coreu COM/519/03 and proposed the following countries to be included in the list: Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Namibia, Cameroon, Niger and Ghana. Delegations granted special attention to the issue of sending a mission to Guinea-Bissau.
- The Group will continue discussions as soon as possible to agree in time on the priorities of EU observation missions taking into consideration funding provisions advanced by the Commission.

Mozambique

- The Group thanked HoMs for their report (ROM/1465/03) on the municipal elections and agreed not to carry out a demarche at this stage but rather to raise the concerns expressed by HoMs in the next political dialogue meeting with government;
- To this end the Presidency will circulate draft ToR for partners' comments.

Guinea-Bissau

- Portugal informed partners about political developments in Guinea-Bissau and about the assistance it is giving to that country. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** asked partners to grant aid to support Guinea-Bissau's transition process.
- The Commission informed that the College of Commissioners would approve this week the proposal to launch Art. 96 consultations in Guinea-Bissau. The proposal will be presented to the ACP Group on 16 December. Consultations will not imply the suspension of the aid. The Group underlined that consultations will be held with a constructive approach.

West Africa

- The Group took note of the US' offer to host a Donor Conference on Liberia on 3-4 February 2004 and decided to keep this item on the agenda. Further details will be discussed in a future AWG meeting.

- The Group took note of SRP Dahlgren's report and expressed its concern about the situation in Guinea. It mandated HoMs in Conakry to produce a report, after verifying whether elections are held as scheduled on 21 December. If they do, the report should cover the elections result. Otherwise, the report should elaborate on the postponement. In any case, HoMs should also include an updated assessment of the situation in the country.

Great Lakes Region/International Conference

- The Group invited EUSR Ajello to keep the AWG updated on the preparatory process of the Conference and agreed that before each meeting of the Group of Friends (GoF) there will be a discussion/co-ordination in AWG.
- Belgium informed the Group on a meeting of the Forum of Partners for the development in Burundi to take place on 13-14 January 2004 in Brussels. It will circulate invitations to partners in the coming weeks.

DRC

- The Group welcomed the report of EUSR Ajello and equally thanked HoMs in Kinshasa for their report. It endorsed the recommendations contained therein.
- The Group suggested to prepare a co-ordinated EU statement for the Consultative Group meeting in Paris on 17-18 January 2004.
- The Group recalled the request to HoMs in Kinshasa to put in place a co-ordination mechanism, start political dialogue and prepare ToR to this end (PSC conclusions of 22/10, COREU SEC/2361/03).

Ethiopia-Eritrea

- The Group discussed the deterioration of the situation between the two countries and agreed to pursue a pro-active approach. It agreed that for the time being it would be appropriate to intensify diplomatic efforts and
 - = to continue the double-track approach vis-à-vis both countries;
 - = to carry out a demarche to the UNSG in New York in order to advance the appointment of a UN Special Envoy;
- The Group discussed the sustainability of EU development assistance to Ethiopia and the possible worsening of the situation. The discussion on this issue will be continued at the next AWG meeting in January.
- The Presidency will explore the possibility of a Ministerial Troika to both countries, if possible in conjunction with the EU Troika in Khartoum.

Somalia

- The Group agreed that
 - = developments in Somalia will be further discussed at its next meeting in January on the basis of the outcome of the retreat meeting in Mombassa;
 - = an EU declaration on the occasion of the retreat meeting will be issued. The Presidency will circulate a draft text to this end.

- Several delegations (**NOT DECLASSIFIED**) announced additional contributions to the Somali peace process.

Uganda

- The Group agreed to keep the development of the situation in North Uganda on the agenda and will consider follow-up and possible actions after having received the report on the demarche carried out in New York (11/12).

II. OTHER POINTS

HORIZONTAL QUESTIONS

1. EU-Africa dialogue

Way forward - preparation of upcoming meetings

- 1.1. Ireland presented its approach and programme on the forthcoming Troika meeting at Officials' level as agreed upon at the Ministerial Troika in Rome. The suggested date of 26/27 February might be advanced due to inconvenience on the African side. The agenda would comprise the four clusters, which would allow incorporating the eight priority issues. Separately, discussions will focus on the debt issue and the respective chefs de file with their experts will be invited to this meeting. Partners will be kept informed on further planning and the finalisation of the programme will also take place in close consultations with the African counterparts, in particular the Mozambican AU Presidency. The Group emphasised that a good preparation of the meeting would be essential. Ireland also indicated their intention to organise a Ministerial Troika at the beginning of April.
- 1.2. Some delegations recalled that despite the streamlined structure (new Troika format) the Cairo mechanism with plenary meetings (Bi-regional and Ministerial) will have to be organised at some future date. The continuation of the dialogue in Troika format is complementary to the Cairo process and the Group reaffirmed its commitment to hold the Summit as soon as conditions would allow. The question was raised whether chefs de file on other issues would be invited

Peace Facility:

- 1.3. The Presidency recalled the results of the last meeting and circulated to the Group the report of the two discussions in the ACP working party (ACP 149/1/03 REV 1 of 05/12/03). It underlined that the discussion, based on the joint Council and Commission statement of 17 November 2003, should focus on providing guidelines for the Commission subsequent financing proposal. Furthermore, it recalled the increasing role of the AU in the area of Peace and Security as set out at the Maputo Summit, where the AU Assembly requested the EU to set up the Peace Facility.
- 1.4. The Group continued its reflection and endorsed the objectives set out in the Commissioners' communication of 28/10/03. Delegations welcomed **NOT DECLASSIFIED** non-paper on different key aspects of the Peace Facility. It was pointed out that the implementation of the PF is a process, and that discussions should take account of a step-by-step approach.

- 1.5. Several delegations agreed that UN endorsement should be obtained systematically and that AU endorsement should be sought taking into account specific situations. There was general agreement that a flexible approach also in the decision-making process was needed in order to make the Peace Facility effective and to allow for a quick implementation. The Group shared the opinion that each situation should be examined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account what the African side (AU and sub-regional organisations) is requesting.
- 1.6. On the specific operations the Commission reiterated that it will seek, at an early stage, consensus of Member States in the competent Council bodies.
- 1.7. Delegations stressed the evaluation to be carried out after one year and that in the planning process a coherent approach has to be followed between development goals (Cotonou) and CFSP objectives.
- 1.8. On request of some delegations the Presidency concluded that it would assess whether to put the item on the COREPER agenda on 18/12/03 after the next ACP meeting on 16/12.

2. Election Observation

- 2.1. The Commission presented its election observation priorities for the year 2004 (Malawi and Mozambique) and the countries to be followed-up (Angola, Burundi, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia). A number of delegations presented their priorities to be added to the list. Spain strongly advocated the inclusion of the 2004 parliamentary elections in Equatorial Guinea. Spain stressed that even if the political and human rights situation are not up to standards, election observation would send the adequate messages to the opposition and to the government (no funds will be granted without scrutiny). Portugal evoked the difficulties that Guinea-Bissau is experiencing and emphasised the importance of granting support to ensure a successful transition in the country. The launching of Art. 96 consultations without electoral support would pose a coherence problem to the EU. A number of delegations strongly supported the Portuguese argument that Guinea-Bissau was a special case. Belgium and France advocated the inclusion of Burundi given the important role that the EU is having in this critical moment of the peace process. The Netherlands joined to these suggestions and made a case for Namibia, which was subscribed by some delegations. On a general basis, the Netherlands argued that the scheduled number of elections (8-10) could be flexible and increased in case of needs. Sweden mentioned other countries to be taken into account for future provisions (Angola, Burundi, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia). Italy proposed to add Cameroon, Ghana, Niger.
- 2.2. The Commission recalled its Communication on Election Observation and Assistance (COM 2001 191) and stressed the importance of a focused and professional electoral observation scheme (less missions but more professional). The Commission recalled also the necessary steps to deploy an observation mission (exploratory mission, consultations, organisation and planning) and the other instruments to provide assistance (electoral support, political dialogue). It also spelled out the criteria for assistance: (i) consistency and complementarity of EU action and the existence of adequate means of support and follow-up and (ii) whether the EU contribution had an added value.
- 2.3. The Group stressed the importance of being flexible on the number of missions to the extent allowed by financial and operational constraints.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

3. Mozambique

- 3.1. The Presidency summarised the main elements of HoMs report (ROM/1465/03) and the proposal for a demarche to be carried out.
- 3.2. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- 3.3. These municipal elections were considered as a test case for the more important Presidential elections in December 2004. The final report of the EOM is still outstanding and should include detailed recommendations. Some of the problems that occurred during these elections could be avoided for the future by better defined terms in the EU-GoM memorandum of understanding. The preparatory work for the 2004 elections should include a link between the financial support and the requested improvements in the electoral mechanism.

WESTERN AFRICA

4. Guinea Bissau

- 4.1. Portugal informed partners about political developments in Guinea-Bissau and about the assistance it is giving to that country. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** invited partners to grant aid to support Guinea-Bissau's transition process.
- 4.2. The Commission informed that the College of Commissioners would approve this week the proposal to launch Art. 96 consultations in Guinea-Bissau. The proposal will be presented to the ACP Group on 16 December. Consultations will not imply the suspension of the aid. The Group underlined that consultations will be held with a constructive approach.

5. Mano River Union

- The Swedish delegation reported on SRP Dahlgren's visit to Washington (STO/0523/03). The US, jointly with the UN and the World Bank, has offered to host a donor's conference for Liberia in New York on 3-4 February 2004. The Commission will circulate further information on the issue so that it can be discussed at the next AWG meeting. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

6. Gabon

- 6.1. Following the request to prepare the basis for a dialogue on good governance HoMs submitted the report on the meeting with FM Ping (ROM/1484/03). **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

6.2. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

GREAT LAKES REGION

7. International Conference

- 7.1. The EUSR M. Ajello briefed the Group on the meeting of the Group of Friends of the GLR (GoF-GLR) on 4 December in Geneva. In addition to the report (SEC/2805/03) he commended the CAN/NL initiative which presented a good opportunity to participants to express their positions on the International Conference (IC). The UNSG SR Fall presented a table which was more modest and hence more realistic while maintaining the same message from the past.
- 7.2. The NL informed that the financial management of the conference would be discussed next week and the GoF-GLR suggested as the only criteria that it has to be light and with short procedures (max. five working days). In this context the Commission suggested to follow the flexible mechanism of the Arusha Conference. For future activities the GoF-GLR should work in synergy with and complementary to other fora.
- 7.3. Some delegations welcomed this initiative and pointed out that the first meeting proved that there is room for co-ordination, and follow-up should be part of the EUSR's mandate. The support for the IC has to be thoroughly prepared including a proper follow-up mechanism.
- 7.4. With regard to the question of the composition of the inner and outer circle of participating countries at the IC some delegations called for a careful approach taking the ownership of this conference seriously.

8. DRC

- 8.1. The EUSR informed the Group about his last mission to the country and highlighted it as the best so far. He stressed the importance to increase efforts to advance the peace process in support of the "forces positives" to counteract the still obstructing approach of the "forces negatives".
- 8.2. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

NOT DECLASSIFIED

- 8.4. The Group agreed to prepare an EU statement for the Consultative Group meeting in Paris on 17/12 to emphasize the high profile of the EU and to present a co-ordinated position on the political aspects in addition to MS bilateral statements.

EASTERN AFRICA

9. Ethiopia-Eritrea

- 9.1. The Presidency outlined the main developments since end of November, in particular the diplomatic campaign undertaken by Eritrea (visit of several capitals by the FM and President Isayas) and the report (ROM/1413/03) on the political dialogue meeting of HoMs with PM Meles in Addis.

- 9.2. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

- 9.6. There was shared opinion on the opportunity to consider sending a Ministerial Troika to both capitals.

10. Somalia

- 10.1. The Presidency briefed the Group on the latest developments, in particular on the postponement to 18/12 of the retreat of the Somali leaders (originally planned for 9/12). It circulated the joint Communiqué of the IGAD Ministerial Facilitation Committee meeting on 08/12/03 in Nairobi.

- 10.2. Despite some positive signals there is no guarantee that all leaders would attend the retreat meeting in Mombassa, therefore further pressure should be put on those threatening the process.
- 10.3. The Group agreed to come back to the issue at its next meeting in January.

11. Uganda

11.1. The Presidency briefed the Group on recent developments in North Uganda and recalled the report on the demarche in Kampala (ROM/1443/03). The envisaged demarche in New York is scheduled on 11 December.

11.2. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

11.3. Following the request on the follow up on previous HoMs reports (Rom/0764/03, ROM/1124/03) and the outstanding evaluation of the results of the demarche carried out in Kampala the Group will further discuss the situation in Northern Uganda after having received the report on the demarche in New York.

12. Comoros

12.1. The Group discussed the press release by the African Union (28-11-03) on the violent incidents in the bay of Eid-El-Firt. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

A.O.B.

- **EU - UN:** The Group agreed to the modification of the second indent of the operational conclusions of the report of the last meeting at Directors' level (SEC/2727/03).
- **Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution:** The Presidency informed Partners that the text of the Common Position on CPMR, reviewed on the basis of comments by Partners to ROM/1350/03, would be circulated in the following days.
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- **South Africa:** The Group took note of the draft Report of the Political Dialogue Meeting with South Africa held in Pretoria on 8 December 2003.

- **Presentation of engagements for next semester by incoming Irish Presidency.**

Ireland affirmed its intention of building-up on the progress made by the previous Presidency and of raising the profile of Africa. Ireland's priorities will be as follows:

- = EU-Africa: implementation of Commission's proposals on the Peace Facility;
- = West Africa: reinforcement of ECOWAS' capacities for conflict resolution and adoption of a strategy for West Africa. Possible agenda items: NEPAD, Regional Economic Agreements, Small Arms and Light Weapons and EU-West Africa strategy;
- = Great Lakes: drive the peace process forward;
- = Sudan: contribute to the post-conflict situation after the Peace Agreement expected by the end of the year;
- = Political dialogue: reinforce political dialogue with the most important players in the region (South Africa, Nigeria).

Items expected for GAERC will be Sudan (February), EU-Africa Dialogue (April) and the Great Lakes (June). The dates for AWG meetings will be: 13-14 January, 3 February (Directors' level in Dublin), 10-11 February, 9-10 March, 6-7 April, 4-5 May, 25 May (Directors' level), 8-9 June.

- **Closing remarks by the Italian Presidency.**

Italy thanked members of the Group and Special Representatives for their support during the last six months and outlined the main results on the programme of its Presidency.

- = EU-Africa dialogue: two Ministerial Troikas and meetings with sub-regional organisations (ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD); adoption of the Peace Facility;
- = Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution::; review of the Common Position on CPMR;
- = Political Dialogue carried out with relevant actors in a number of countries: in particular Troika missions in Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, South Africa, Sudan;
- = Support to peace processes: EU contribution in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Mano River Union, Sudan, Somalia, the Great Lakes;

Other results were the publication of 23 declarations; Africa issues on every GAERC Conclusions; political dialogue meetings with Canada, the US and Japan on African issues; more than 20% of the whole Coreu traffic had the COAFR acronym (of about 28 CFSP groups) In this time of epochal transformation on the continent (creation of AU, launching of NEPAD), Africa remains a strategic partner for the EU.
