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COVER NOTE

From: European External Action Service (EEAS)
To: Political and Security Committee (PSC)
Subject: CIVCOM advice on options for CSDP support to Sahel-Saharan border management

Delegations will find attached document EEAS 01879/14.

Encl.: EEAS 01879/14

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**Crisis Management and Planning
Directorate – CMPD**

Brussels, 24 September 2014

EEAS 01879/14

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NOTE

From: Crisis Management and Planning Directorate
To: Political and Security Committee

Subject: CIVCOM advice on options for CSDP support to Sahel-Saharan border management

Delegations will find attached the CivCom Advice on the options for CSDP support to Sahel-Saharan border management.

**CIVCOM ADVICE ON THE NOTE FROM THE EEAS (CMPD)
ON OPTIONS FOR CSDP SUPPORT TO SAHEL-SAHARAN BORDER MANAGEMENT**

A. Introduction

1. PSC invited CIVCOM on 8 July 2014 to provide an advice on the Note from the EEAS (CMPD) on options for CSDP support to Sahel-Saharan border management (doc. 11601/14 dated 7 May 2014).
2. In its meeting on 14 July 2014, CIVCOM had an orientation discussion with a view to providing an advice on the Note.
3. On 17 and 22 of September 2014, CIVCOM discussed and agreed the following advice.

B. Considerations

4. CIVCOM recalled the tasking by the Council to provide options for further CSDP support to Sahel-Saharan border management and discussed the EEAS options paper to assess appropriate follow up.
5. CIVCOM considered that potential further EU support to Sahel-Saharan border management should be addressed from a wider security and development perspective, making full use of comprehensive approach and in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel. In this framework EUCAP SAHEL missions, in their part, are concretely applying this approach. To this end, CIVCOM considers it important that relevant implementing activities should be further considered and developed, as appropriate, in the action plan of the Sahel strategy.
6. CIVCOM noted that CSDP missions in the region are already contributing, directly or indirectly, within their mandates to the Sahel-Saharan border management; however CIVCOM noted limitations the CSDP missions alone might have addressing the regional aspects of border management;

7. CIVCOM stressed that the possible impact to mandates of the CSDP missions should be addressed in accordance with their respective reviews. CIVCOM additionally highlighted that the following parameters should be taken into account before considering any further CSDP engagement in order to ensure cost-efficiency and added value of potential operational activities: ensuring local ownership and buy-in, stronger liaison amongst the CSDP missions in the region as well as financial and human resources implications including equipment.
8. Regarding operational aspects of the paper CIVCOM emphasised the need to include further considerations on roles of armed forces, complementarity to Task Force Mediterranean and the EU's southern maritime borders as well as on the Train & Equip initiative.
9. CIVCOM recognised the added value which relevant security expertise, including in the civilian domain, could bring to the EU Delegations with respect to the possible implementation of the proposed activities.

C. Recommendation and Way Forward

10. CIVCOM recommend that PSC takes note of the considerations above and invite the EEAS, in cooperation with the Commission, to consider further EU support to border management in the Sahel-Sahara region comprehensively in the next action plan on the implementation of EU Strategy for security and development in the Sahel.
