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## DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject:	Somalia - EU Strategic Engagement <b>(Food for Thought Paper)</b>

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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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## NOTE

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From :	General Secretariat of the Council/Commission
To :	Political and Security Committee
Subject :	Somalia - EU Strategic Engagement ( <b>Food for Thought Paper</b> )

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## Joint GSC/Commission Food for Thought Paper: Somalia – EU Strategic Engagement

### Internal situation

The security situation remains critical. There is currently a military standoff, with the TFG planning an offensive to take control over the capital, Mogadishu. Politically, the agreement reached on 13<sup>th</sup> February between TFG and Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a (ASWJ) answers the need for both parties to strengthen their positions and form an alliance against Al-Shabab. However, such agreement still needs to be signed and confirmed by ASWJ rank and file. Meanwhile, Al-Shabab has the upper hand among armed Islamist opposition groups.

Outreach efforts by TFG toward the population are still limited, due to lack of both security and TFG capacity. The recent launch of the governmental 'radio Mogadishu' is seen as a positive development.

- *provide adequate short-term support to allow TFG to demonstrate it responds to the needs of the population. For example, the EU and Member States could support public infrastructural investments and measures to reignite the private sector economy; basic services in education, employment creation, and food security; as well as strengthening Somali police and rule of law;*

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- *support the long-overdue outreach to grassroot groups like ASWJ as well as bottom-up governance approach;*
- *further link recovery and development activities with state-building for example through programmes aiming at installing and initiating within the TFG cadres the capacity to plan.*
- *Support the TFG in its transitional tasks of moving towards inclusive and democratic government.*

## **Puntland, Somaliland**

Relations between TFG and Puntland have ups and downs but Puntland remains loyal to Transitional Charter. Half of EC assistance to Somalia goes to Somaliland and Puntland.

- *make sure that practical security cooperation with Puntland and Somaliland is strengthened;*
- *support efforts to improve the existing fragile equilibrium between the three main entities composing Somalia.*

## **EU engagement in the region**

The EU (Member States and institutions) has been the most engaged and the most consistent external partner in the region (Somalia, Horn of Africa countries, Gulf of Aden). EU large support to AMISOM is a concrete application of EU-Africa partnership.. As the situation in the Horn remains fragile in the context of UN sanctions on Eritrea, EU can play a more ambitious role.

- *further work for more coordination with our main international partners (US, UN) in order to make more effective international efforts to support stabilization and security in the region;*
- *nurture our dialogue with AU on Somalia;*
- *reach out to other regional organizations and partners, e.g. AU, IGAD, to encourage support for Somali-owned solutions for Somalia;*
- *acknowledge member-states bilateral initiatives aimed at stabilizing TFG;*
- *ensure coherence between our political, security and development engagement as we develop a comprehensive EU strategy on the Horn of Africa ;*
- *reach out to non-traditional partners.*