



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 December 2013

17270/13

**PESC 1467
FIN 884**

NOTE

from : Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Group (RELEX)
to : Political and Security Committee/COREPER

Subject : CFSP Budget: political priority-setting

1. On 5 November 2013 the Political and Security Committee (PSC) discussed the EEAS Note "Priority-setting for CFSP actions – more effective use of the CFSP budget" (doc. 15515/13) and invited the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (RELEX) to update the procedures for the political priority-setting and supervision of the CFSP budget.
2. At its meetings on 28 November 2013 and 2 December 2013, RELEX discussed the suggestions as set out in paragraph 30 of the above-mentioned note. Delegations agreed that in view of the specificity of the CFSP budget, and in order to improve and add value to the priority-setting by the Council, the following procedure should be followed:

a) In late January each year, the PSC should schedule a discussion on policy orientations for the year n+1 in order to allow the Commission to adjust, if necessary, its budget proposal in respect of the CFSP chapter. This discussion should be prepared by RELEX, based on an EEAS/Commission (FPI) note;

b) with respect to the proposed budget the PSC may give its view on the CFSP budget before the adoption of the Council's position and the conciliation procedure in November. This discussion should be prepared by RELEX;

c) the Commission (FPI) will continue providing regular monthly updates on the state of play of the CFSP budget to RELEX, including possible budgetary transfers out of the CFSP budget in commitment appropriations under Art. 27 of the Financial Regulation. Proposals for such transfers from the CFSP budget should be discussed by RELEX in a timely manner prior to a final decision on such transfers;

d) at least twice a year (March/April, September) the PSC should hold a discussion with a view to providing guidance for a possible reorientation of CFSP priorities. This discussion will be prepared by RELEX, based on Commission (FPI) input.. The Services are invited to provide information on the state-of-play of other Union financial instruments in the area of external relations where this information is relevant for CFSP actions under discussion.

3. The procedures set out in paragraph 2 above replace the procedures established in the document "CFSP Budget: improving its effectiveness" (doc. 7203/1/03).
4. PSC and COREPER are invited to endorse the proposed procedures.