



Council of the
European Union

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COAFR 102
ACP 45
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COTER 46
COMAG 45
COHAFA 30
RELEX 225

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Council conclusions on Mali

1. At its meeting on 16 March 2015, the Council adopted the Council conclusions on Mali set out in the annex to this note.

Council conclusions on Mali

1. The Council strongly condemns the recent terrorist attacks perpetrated in Bamako, Gao and Kidal and expresses its condolences to the families of the victims that in this occasion included a Belgian employee of the European Union Delegation to Mali, a French national and Malian and Chadian citizens. Such acts are unacceptable irrespective of where they take place or who the perpetrators or the victims are. The European Union (EU) stands united with the rest of the international community in condemning all terrorist acts, as well as other violent acts and violations of human rights which continue to take place in Mali; it reaffirms its support to the Malian authorities to put an end to the scourge of terrorism and bring those responsible to justice. The protection of the population, especially women and children, suffering enormously by such acts, has to be ensured.
2. The recent proliferation of violent attacks and terrorist activities in Mali and neighbouring countries reinforces the need to reach a swift conclusion and signature by all parties of the agreement reached on 1 March in the Algiers peace negotiations, and to establish conditions that will allow all communities in Mali to unite in fighting terrorism and live together in peace and security.
3. The EU congratulates Algeria and others in the mediation team on the tremendous efforts they have put into concluding these negotiations and confirms it is ready to fulfil its role in the Follow-up Committee, that should be established and made operational swiftly and have the capacity and political will to effectively monitor and support the implementation of the peace agreement. It underlines the importance of continuing the close coordination of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the Sahel, with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

4. The Council considers the draft peace agreement as a unique window of opportunity for a political solution to the crisis. The text initialled in Algiers represents the best possible compromise, which paves the way for a lasting peace in Mali, provided that all parties stand by their commitments. The EU strongly urges all remaining parties to initial the agreement with minimal delay. It also reiterates its commitment to supporting all efforts to this end and to assisting Mali in the implementation of the peace agreement by using all appropriate means and instruments at its disposal. In the context of the comprehensive approach, the EU is committed to continue to use its relevant instruments, including the CSDP Missions EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel Mali, the EUSR for the Sahel and the recently signed National Indicative Programme for Mali.
5. The Council stresses the need for effective follow up mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the agreement, in configuration with parallel reconciliation efforts at local level. In this context, it encourages the Malian government to speed up the effective establishment of the Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation and enable it to start its work as soon as possible, so that the rights of victims of human rights violations can be fully recognised.
6. The Council recalls its conclusions of 9 February and underlines the important role played by the United Nations peace keeping mission, MINUSMA in consolidating peace, security and stability. In this respect, it reiterates its full support for MINUSMA in the implementation of its mandate and its efforts to protect civilians, as well as the continuous cooperation of its two CSDP Missions.
