



Council of the
European Union

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Subject: Negotiating directives for the conclusion of a Political Dialogue and Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States and the Central American Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

COMMON GUIDELINES

Deadline for consultations: 14.03.2003

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



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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 March 2003

**6902/1/03
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**AMLAT 17
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OC 80**

NOTE

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PREAMBLE

Consideration will be given to the traditional historical and cultural links between the parties and the desire to strengthen their relations, building on the existing mechanisms that govern relations between the parties, with particular reference to:

- (1) the respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- (2) the attachment to the principles of the rule of law and good governance;
- (3) prevention of the use of illicit drugs and reducing their harmful effects as well as tackling the illicit cultivation, production, processing and trafficking of drugs and their precursors;
- (4) the commitment to work together in pursuit of the objectives of poverty eradication, equitable and sustainable development, including aspects of vulnerability to natural disasters, environmental conservation and protection and biodiversity, and the progressive integration of Central American countries into the world economy;
- (5) the consolidation of the political dialogue and economic co-operation process built up between the two parties under the San Jose Dialogue initiated in 1984 and renewed in Florence in 1996 and in Madrid in 2002;
- (6) the strengthening of the programme of co-operation governed by the 1993 Framework Co-operation Agreement between the European Community and the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama; Consideration will be given to documents adopted thereafter, including the Joint Council and Commission Declaration on EU Development Policy of November 2000, the ALA regulation and the Memorandum of Understanding based on approved Country and Regional Strategy Papers;
- (7) the recognition of the need to deepen the process of regional integration, trade liberalisation and economic reform within the Central American region;
- (8) the need to promote sustainable development in the Central American region through a development partnership involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in line with the principles set out in the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Declaration, and its Plan for Implementation;
- (9) the need to establish co-operation on immigration and asylum issues;
- (10) the will to co-operate in international forums; and
- (11) the strategic partnership developed between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the 1999 Rio Summit and reaffirmed at the 2002 Madrid Summit.

