



**Brussels, 24 January 2018
(OR. en)**

5508/18

**CFSP/PESC 52
COPS 19
POLMIL 12
CIVCOM 7
DEVGEN 6**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of proceedings of the Nicolaidis Group meeting on 10 January 2018 on the EEAS/Commission services' issues paper suggesting parameters for a concept in Stabilisation as part of the EU Integrated Approach to external conflicts and crises

1. Following the tasking of the Political and Security Committee on 13 December 2017, the Nicolaidis Group on 10 January 2018 further examined the issues paper (doc. 15622/17) in cooperation with CIVCOM, PMG and CODEV. EUMC provided a separate advice (doc. 5153/18).
2. The discussion focused mainly on the forward looking part, based on a number of guiding questions, including on the shared analysis, shared political objective and measuring effects of the stabilisation process.
3. Delegations expressed broad support to the concept and reiterated main points of the PSC discussion on 13 December 2017. They underlined the political nature of stabilisation which should be a continuous and demand driven process on the basis of a tailor-made approach and that measures should support the political process as well as contribute to long-term societal changes, in addition to short- and mid-term objectives. Member States also stated that the stabilisation approach often requires a swift decision-making process with short timelines.

4. A large majority highlighted the importance of Member States' ownership and close involvement throughout the entire process of stabilisation and underlined the central coordinating role for the PSC and relevant Working Parties, in particular in defining a shared political objective and providing a clear strategic direction. The important role for EU Delegations and Member States' embassies and duty stations was also emphasised.
5. Delegations stressed the important contribution of CSDP missions and operations to stabilisation efforts and noted the ongoing work regarding the strengthening of civilian CSDP, including the link with FSJ actors. The need for enhanced coordination between civilian and military aspects of CSDP was also underlined. Stabilisation actions under Article 28 TEU were considered as a potentially useful contribution to the stabilisation toolbox, without prejudice to the EU's ability to conduct CSDP missions and operations.
6. The use of full range of existing financial instruments was underlined as key for the operationalisation of stabilisation and peacebuilding processes while noting that their flexibility and rapid response were particularly crucial, as well as complementarity with Member States' actions. Respect for distinctive objectives and principles of EU humanitarian aid was recalled in this context. The need for a new dedicated instrument for CBSD was also reiterated.
7. Delegations further emphasised closer engagement with other international and regional partners and organisations, in particular the UN, but also with NGOs, civil society and the private sector.
8. Member States will continue to work closely together with the EEAS and the Commission in the follow-up work to the issues paper and called for lessons learnt regarding the ongoing stabilisation action in Mali. EEAS called on Member States to share information about their projects and programmes. A number of delegations offered to provide their expertise, including in the framework of informal contacts.
9. PSC is invited to take note of the outcome of proceedings, with a view to further follow up by the EEAS, Commission services and Member States.