



Council of the  
European Union

010319/EU XXVII.GP  
Eingelangt am 06/02/20

Brussels, 6 February 2020  
(OR. en)

12327/04  
DCL 1

ASIE 34  
COASI 45  
PESC 720  
PVD 64

### DECLASSIFICATION

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of document:	12327/04 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED
dated:	13 September 2004
new status:	Public

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Subject:	Report of the Asia–Oceania Working Group of 2 September 2004
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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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# RESTREINT UE



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 13 September 2004**

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## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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To : Delegations

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From : General Secretariat of the Council

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Subject : Report of the Asia–Oceania Working Group of 2 September 2004

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Please find in annex the report of the Asia–Oceania Working Group of 2 September 2004.

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## I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

### India

1. Delegations are invited to comment by Thursday, 9 September 2004 on the draft Council conclusions on the commission's EU-India Communication (HAG/733/04). Presidency will thereafter submit the draft to PSC/Coreper for approval.
2. The Presidency will by mid-September circulate a draft EU-India Summit Press Statement as well as a draft EU-India Declaration on Cultural Co-operation. These texts, will be discussed again in COASI on 30 September and thereafter submitted via PSC/Coreper for approval to the GAERC on 11 October, in view of the EU-India Summit in The Hague on 14 October 2004.
3. The Indian reaction to the Commission's Communication as well as initial ideas for a future EU-India Action Plan will be discussed at the informal meeting of EU India experts in Brussels, 17 September 2004 and thereafter in COASI on 30 September 2004.

### Pakistan

4. The EU troika of Political Directors will at the forthcoming meeting with the Pakistani Foreign Secretary in The Hague, 8 September 2004, convey the firm message that the overall EU-Pakistan relationship (implementation of 3rd Generation Agreement; strengthened political dialogue) can only develop positively, if Pakistan returns in good faith to the negotiations on a readmission agreement and if it is receptive to constructive talks on an instrument concerning the non-proliferation of WMD and counter-terrorism.
5. The Presidency will continue its consultations on the proposed EU-Pakistan instrument on non-proliferation of WMD and counter-terrorism with a view to presenting a revised proposal in due course.

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## Nepal

6. The Group endorsed the recommendations made by HOMs in Kathmandu (COP/146/04), in particular that the EU should continue to support all efforts aimed at a political settlement and that any potential EU initiative should be carefully assessed against the impact it could have on the local situation.
7. Human rights issues will be high on the agenda at the forthcoming meeting of the EC-Nepal joint Commission on 21 September 2001.
8. The EU troika of Political Directors will at the forthcoming meeting with India in The Hague on 7 September 2004 sound out India about its attitude to a possible role for the UN as a facilitator in the Nepalese conflict.

## South Korea

### **- Information by the Commission on its non-paper on the funding of suspension costs of KEDO**

9. The Group had a preliminary exchange of views on the Commission non-paper (Coreu COM 298 COR 1). It was pointed out by several delegations that a contribution should be made only if something could be obtained in exchange, and notably in terms of greater influence on decisions relating to KEDO. The Group will revert to the issue at one of its coming meetings on the basis of further comments from delegations, as well as of inputs received from the CONOP and the Atomic Questions Working Groups.
10. The Commission will decide whether to table or not a proposal along the lines described in the non-paper after having heard Member States' views.

## Burma

11. The Group agreed to continue the discussion on the HOMs report on options for strengthening the Common Position (HAG/607/04).

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## Philippines

12. HOMs in Manila are invited to explore the possibility of resuming the six-monthly meetings between EU HOMs and the Filipino Department of Foreign Affairs at Under-secretary of State level.

## Bangladesh

13. HOMs in Dhaka are invited to make a report on possible EU actions to convey EU concerns on the political and human rights situation to the authorities of Bangladesh. The Presidency will include Bangladesh on the agenda of COASI on 30 September. Furthermore, on 19 October an informal expert meeting will be organized to explore possible joint actions.

## II. OTHER POINTS

### India

14. The Presidency briefed the Group about the objectives of the forthcoming EU-India Political Directors troika in The Hague, 7 September 2004. The Group also noted that the troika of EU Ambassadors in India will carry out a mission to Jammu&Kashmir, 27 September – 1 October 2004.

### Pakistan

15. The Group noted that the EC-Pakistan Co-operation Agreement had entered into force on 1 September 2004, in accordance with the procedures foreseen in that agreement.

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## South Korea

### - Preparations of the EU-South Korea Summit (Hanoi, 7 October 2004)

16. The Presidency informed the Group about the state of preparations for the Summit. The next preparatory meeting with the South Koreans would take place at the Commission on 9 September. A draft agenda agreed with the South Korean side would be circulated as soon as possible. The Presidency intended to inform the Council on the state of preparations in good time before the Summit.
17. The Polish delegation informed the Group on a recent visit to South Korea by the Polish Foreign Minister and will circulate a Coreu at a later stage.
18. The United Kingdom delegation announced that a Junior Foreign Office Minister would soon be visiting North Korea. Human Rights would be among the key issues to be addressed in the discussions. The UK would circulate by Coreu a full record of the visit.

## ASEM

19. The Presidency and the Commission informed the Group about the state of preparation of the ASEM Senior Official Meeting, scheduled for 6-7 September in Hanoi. Depending on the outcome of the EU Foreign Ministers discussion on 3 September, the SOM would prepare the forthcoming ASEM Summit (Hanoi 8-9 October). A European SOM Coordination meeting was scheduled in Hanoi on Sunday 5 September at 17:00. Delegations were requested to provide the Commission with the names of participants. After the SOM, delegations would also inform each other on attendance to the Summit by their respective Heads of State or Government.
20. The agenda and tentative programme of the SOM, as well as the preliminary programme and the indicative list of topics for the ASEM 5 Summit were circulated to delegations (Doc. N.109/04). As regards the documents to be discussed at the SOM, a draft declaration on Closer Economic Partnership as well as a draft declaration on Culture and Civilisation had already been circulated. A draft Chairman Statement would be circulated as soon as made available by Vietnam.

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**Burma: information by the Presidency and the Commission, keeping in mind recent HOMs reports**

- HOMs report on options strengthening the Common Position on Burma, including illegal logging

- HOMs report on the situation in Burma.

21. The Group welcomed both reports and had a preliminary exchange of views on the report on options for strengthening the Common Position.

**Philippines: exchange of views on HOMs non-paper on EU-Philippines relations (HAG/679/04).**

22. Delegations underscored the interest for the EU to strengthen its relations with the Philippines in order to promote the peaceful political and economic development of the country. The fight against terrorism and the need to prevent the country to become a failed state were mentioned. Moreover, it was pointed out that the downward-spiralling trend of the Philippines economy would have direct consequences in Europe since the EU is the main destination of Filipino (illegal) migrants. Some delegations regretted the limited interest of the Filipino authorities in the EU, and called for greater EU visibility. The Commission representative hinted to the possibility of an EU-Philippines Partnership and Co-operation Agreement, although the Philippines has not yet sent signals of interest so far.

23. The Commission intends to organise a brainstorming meeting to discuss options for EU action, later this year.

### III. A.O.B

24. Priorities for Election Observation: the Commission informed on priorities for electoral observation in Asia. On-going priorities are the upcoming presidential elections in Indonesia and presidential and parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. Cambodia and Nepal remain on the priority list, although elections are so far unlikely in both countries. Portugal called for EU support to upcoming local elections in East Timor.

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25. Afghanistan: the Presidency informed the group on preparations for the ministerial troika in the margins of UNGA, as well as on recent developments in the country, especially elections.
26. Bangladesh: delegations expressed concern at the deteriorating political situation and the escalation of human rights violations.
27. China: the Commission informed on the China experts meeting to take place on 21 September.
28. Taiwan: the Commission informed on the agenda for EC-Taiwan consultations to take place on 9 September. The Commission intends to circulate a report of the meeting to Member States.

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