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### DECLASSIFICATION

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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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**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 24 May 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 13 May 2004

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Please find in annex the report of the Asia–Oceania Working Group of 13 May 2004.

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## I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

### Afghanistan

1. The Commission will implement the measures outlined in COM/170/04 with regard to the forthcoming elections in Afghanistan.
2. Concerning a possible EU Election Monitoring Mission, Member States will continue to exchange ideas via coreu. The Policy Unit, in close collaboration with EUSR Vendrell, will outline its views on the political and security context for election observation in Afghanistan as well as on the implications of sending or not sending an election observation mission. The issue will then be taken up again at the COASI meeting at Directors' level on 10 June 2004 and, if possible, by the GAERC on 14 June 2004.
3. PSC is invited to note the consensus in COASI on the timeliness of extending the mandate of EUSR Vendrell and on the need to consider (as suggested by the EUSR in his implementation report, SEC/1012/04) strengthening the office of the EUSR with 4-8 election experts for a period of a few months before and after the elections.

### China

4. The Presidency will circulate via coreu draft terms of reference for an EU troika demarche on Hong Kong.
5. Asia Directors will at the next COASI meeting on 10 June 2004 pursue the discussion on the French non-paper "Considerations on the Future of Relations between the EU and China".
6. The proposed EU-China readmission agreement will be further discussed at the EU-China High Level Consultations on Migration, to take place in Brussels on 26 May 2004.

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## 7. The Commission

- intends to convene an informal meeting of China experts in September 2004 (probably 20-21/9) to discuss the way forward in EU-China relations, in particular the updating of the 1985 EC-China Co-operation Agreement;
- will propose to the appropriate instances internal implementation modalities for the ADS Memorandum of Understanding;
- will convene an EU-China Energy Conference in Brussels on 25-26 May 2004.

## Philippines

8. The Group welcomed the UK/Germany non-paper on the EU-Philippines relation (LON 292/04) as a basis for more in-depth analysis and further development. The Presidency will ask HOMs at Manila to draft a report using the non-paper as a working basis.

## II. OTHER POINTS

### Afghanistan

9. The Group pursued the discussion on the most appropriate means for the EU to ensure a visible and credible presence during the electoral period in Afghanistan. Member States welcomed the measures proposed by the Commission (COM/170/04), but thought that they should be seen as complementary to some form of Election Observation Mission (EOM) to be dispatched either by the EU or in the framework of a joint international effort. Member States felt that the political and security situation in Afghanistan as well as the discussion within NATO on ISAF reinforcement should be watched closely and that further discussion was needed on the

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modalities, location and scope of an EOM. The Commission noted these views, but reiterated that it saw its proposals as an alternative to a possible EOM. The Commission also maintained that, following consultations with the Council and the European Parliament, it was its prerogative to decide on the sending of an EOM, in line with the Council conclusions of 31 May 2001 (doc. 8855/01). The Commission suggested, and Member States agreed, that a further discussion of the issue should take place at the GAERC of 14-15 June.

10. Further to its coreu COM/164/04, the Commission set out to the Group its views on the delicate relationship between military operations and humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, pointing to the risks of a shrinking humanitarian space for aid workers.

## China

11. The Group exchanged views on the results of the recent visit to Europe of PM Wen Jiabao and discussed some specific aspects of EU-China relations, such as readmission, Galileo, Human rights, the updating of the 1985 EC-China Cooperation Agreement and the implementation of the ADS Memorandum of Understanding.

## DPRK

12. The Group had an exchange of views on the current situation in the DPRK in the aftermath of the Ryongchon accident on the basis of the report drafted by the HoMs and of input by the Commission. Most delegations pointed out that, in its response to the emergency, the DPRK government had showed an unusual degree of openness. The Commission underlined the need to focus on reconstruction now that the most acute phase of the emergency was over. The need for caution in assessing further requests for aid was agreed. The Commission also referred to the recent visit to Brussels by DPRK Director for European Affairs Kim Chun Guk. The Czech delegation informed about the recent re-opening of its embassy in Pyongyang. The Group would revert to the subject at a coming meeting.

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## Philippines

13. The Group had an extensive exchange of views on the basis of the UK/Germany non-paper on EU-Philippines relations, as well as comments made thereon. It was felt that the Philippines, an interesting, albeit imperfect example of democracy in South East Asia deserved further EU engagement.

## Thailand

14. Delegations had a brief discussion on the situation in the southern provinces of Thailand. The need to stay engaged with the Thai government was underlined by many. The Group agreed to keep the situation under review.

## Timor Leste

15. The Group heard a briefing by the Presidency on the largely positive developments in Timor Leste. It welcomed the recent UNSG report and the recommendations to extend UNMISSET for another year. The Group noted the approval by the Commission of the National Indicative Programme (NIP) 2005-6 for Timor Leste worth Euros 9 million.

## AOB

## Nepal

16. The Commission briefed the Group about the 3rd Nepal Development Forum, confirming the assessment made by the local Presidency and set out in DUB/1057/04.

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## Briefing by the Policy Unit on the JCLEC meeting of experts

17. The Policy Unit briefed the Group on the above meeting and indicated that it would circulate via coreu a written report on risks for the EU and proposed EU action for discussion at the PSC on 18 May 2004, as part of its early warning report exercise.

## Burma/ASEM

18. The Netherlands delegation announced it would raise under AOB, at the GAERC of 17-18 May, the issue of the forthcoming National Convention in Burma and its impact on ASEM enlargement. The Group agreed to revert to this issue at its 10 June meeting, and also address other questions such as training for certain members of the National Convention, or illegal logging.

## Taiwan/WHO

19. The Presidency recalled the results of the HoMs meeting in Geneva on 12 May 2004 as reported in the Council Secretariat's Transmission Note KGN-2004-0512.

## Japan

### EU-Japan Summit (22 June 2004)

20. The Commission briefed the Group about on-going preparation for the forthcoming Summit, scheduled for 22 June in the afternoon. The Summit would start with a Plenary, followed by a Press Conference and a Working dinner. The Plenary would be preceded by the presentation of the report by the BDRT (Business Dialogue Round Table) leaders. The EC delegation in Tokyo also planned to organise a Nikkei conference on an EU-Japan economic theme. The Summit would issue a Joint Press statement. Political issues such as WMD non-proliferation, Terrorism or the Middle East would probably be addressed in the statement or in side-declarations. The Group would revert to the issue at a coming meeting.

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## FCN treaties with new Member States

21. The Commission informed the Group about the state of play on these agreements, which must be brought in line with the acquis. Discussions with Japan have already taken place in Brussels and Tokyo. Japan announced it would present a new proposal.

## EU Crisis Management Exercise 2004

22. The Council Secretariat informed the Group about the CME04 to take place between 18 - 27 May 2004. The Group noted that it would be involved as the geographical working group COATL.

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