



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 20 November 2020
(OR. en)

13900/04
DCL 1

ASIE 39
COASI 65
PESC 890
PVD 77

DECLASSIFICATION

of document: 13900/04 RESTREINT UE
dated: 25 October 2004
new status: Public
Subject: Report of the Asia–Oceania Working Group of 21 October 2004

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

RESTREINT UE



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 October 2004

13900/04

RESTREINT UE

**ASIE 39
COASI 65
PESC 890
PVD 77**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

To : Delegations
From : General Secretariat of the Council
Subject : Report of the Asia–Oceania Working Group of 21 October 2004

Please find in annex the report of the Asia–Oceania Working Group of 21 October 2004.

1. AFGHANISTAN

The Commission gave a very positive assessment on the conduct of Presidential elections. Three members of the DESM team would remain until the end of counting process and would then produce a final report, which would also contain recommendations for future elections to be held in the country. If parliamentary elections were to be held on schedule a standard expert team would be sent to the country at the beginning of next year.

The Presidency announced that, following publication of the report, a draft statement would be circulated to delegations. Afghanistan would be discussed at the COASI 2 meeting on 11 November. On 12 November an expert meeting would take place, which would discuss, inter alia, a discussion paper to be prepared by the Policy Unit jointly with the Commission. Additional information on the meeting would be circulated by the Commission in the coming week. The Presidency announced it was considering having an Annex on Afghanistan to the December European Council Presidency Conclusions.

2. SRI LANKA – EC/Sri Lanka Joint Commission – 29 October 2004

An annotated agenda was circulated to delegations (MD n° 148/04). The Commission briefed delegations on the subject and promised to revert to the Group to provide additional clarifications on trade-related matters as requested by some delegations.

3. Bilateral agreements with countries of South-East Asia

The Group discussed a Presidency compromise proposal concerning the negotiating directives, which also addressed the issue of the scope of the agreements and the appropriate legal basis. The Presidency announced that it would organise an informal meeting with all interested delegations in order to solve the issues still pending. Any document or paper resulting from the informal meeting would be circulated to delegations. The COASI 2 will revert to the negotiating directives at its meeting on 11 November.

RESTREINT UE

4. **China: a possible new framework agreement**

The Commission informed the Group about preliminary contacts with China on the feasibility of an agreement updating or replacing that concluded in 1985, along the lines of Coreu COM/0413/04. An exchange of views ensued on the issue of the “standing negotiating directives” on human rights, non-proliferation, re-admission and the ICC. A formal reply from the Chinese side was still pending. The Group would revert to the matter after having received the Chinese reply. The Presidency and the Commission would propose the insertion in the Summit Joint Press Statement of a paragraph concerning the feasibility of negotiations.

5. **Mongolia**

The Commission gave a debriefing on a Seminar on “Opportunities for co-operation between Mongolia and the EU”, organised in Ulan Baatar on 28-29 September. A report was circulated to delegations (MD n° 145/04)

6. **Korean Peninsula:**

- **Recommendation from the Commission to the Council in order to authorise the Commission to open negotiations, on behalf of the Community and its Member States, with the Republic of Korea in order to adapt the Framework agreement for trade and co-operation (doc. 12794/04);**

The Group endorsed in principle the Commission recommendation, with some modifications proposed by the Council Legal Service. The modified recommendation will go to the Coasi 2 on 11 November for final approval.

- **Preparation of the troika of the regional directors to the DPRK**

The Presidency and the Commission informed delegations about the preparations for the forthcoming troika visit. Draft terms of references had been circulated and were subject to silence procedure (Coreu PRES/HAG/0970/04).

RESTREINT UE

- KEDO

The Group discussed the draft letter to Mr. Ban Ki-moon, FM of South Korea, prepared by the Commission. Many delegations agreed with the Commission proposal. The German delegation, supported by the French stated that it could not agree on some important elements contained in the letter, and notably on the amount proposed, as well as on the destination of a substantial portion of that amount for the financing of suspension costs. It could agree that the EC would give a contribution, provided that it would only cover administrative costs, and for an amount not exceeding 1 million Euro per year.

The Presidency invited delegations to notify by e-mail to the Secretariat before Tuesday 26 October whether they could agree with the German proposal. On the basis of indications received the Presidency would decide on the way forward.

7. ASEM 5 – debriefing

The Presidency, the Commission and the Secretariat gave a debriefing of the ASEM 5 Summit held in Hanoi on 8-9 October. The Presidency would inform delegations on the dates and venues of the next ASEM Economic and Finance Ministers meetings.

8. Burma/Myanmar

Delegations had an exchange of views on the current situation, following the destitution and arrest of PM Kin Nyunt. The matter will be discussed at the next COASI 2 on 11 November. In the meantime the Presidency would continue to follow developments and, if needed, circulate a draft statement.

9. Nepal

The Presidency asked the Commission to check whether a HoMs report on the situation in the country could be circulated before next COASI 2 meeting.