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- Report

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

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Asia Oceania Working Group

dated : 11 November 1999

Subject: Meeting of the Asia/Oceania Working Group, Brussels, 11 November 1999. Report

1. ASEAN

- *Preparations for the EC-ASEAN Subcommittee on the Environment, 23-24 November 1999*

The Commission circulated a draft agenda for the above sub-Committee meeting. It will circulate an annotated agenda for this meeting later this week and will invite comments from Member States on it. Member States are welcome to attend the sub-Committee meeting.

- *Follow up to the EC-ASEAN informal co-ordination mechanism meeting (state of play and points of difficulty in preparations for future meetings based on the Commission's summary of agenda points circulated at the AOWG on 28 October)*

The Commission indicated that the above meeting on 20 October was unsuccessful on substance since the ASEAN side took some negative positions which appeared to call into question decisions taken by the last JCC in Bangkok. This applies in particular to market access where ASEAN is not willing to participate in a meeting of the Ad Hoc Experts due to opposition from ASEAN Senior Economic Officials. It was not possible either to fix a date for a meeting of the intellectual property experts group which has already been postponed twice at ASEAN's request. Another JCC might be necessary, possibly in the 1st half of 2000, to clarify these items. The Commission fears that ASEAN is being uncooperative because they are unhappy about the lack of a positive response from the EU on holding of a Ministerial Meeting.

Italy recalled its wish that a high level EU-ASEAN Meeting be organized as soon as possible.

The Presidency indicated that the question of EU-ASEAN meetings would be discussed on 25 November mainly at a lunch for Heads of Delegation and then treated briefly by the Group, the object being to find an initiative to permit resumption of such meetings. The Group would also consider the question of a recommendation to Coreper for extending the arrangements for the JCC which expire on 31 December 1999.

The Commission stated that its services would meet Senior Officials of Thailand on 16/17 November and with those from Philippines on 22/23 November to discuss trade, cooperation and other issues: it will keep Member States briefed on the results of these meetings and similar meetings.

2. ASEM

- *Follow up to EMM 2 (including dates for SOMTI-6 and IEG-4 Korean proposals)*

The Commission suggested that, together with the Presidency, it should send a letter to the Asian Coordinators on the implementation of the conclusions of the ASEM Economic Ministers Meeting on October 10 on TFAP and IPAP. The proposed letter would contain the following elements:

- concerning TFAP recall that EMM 2 had emphasised the importance of achieving substantive progress. The EU would propose that ASEM partners report to their coordinators by the end of January 2000 the major generic barriers faced by their exporters, so that coordinators can meet in early March 2000 to consolidate and prioritise the reports received. This list will assist preparation for ASEM partners of the agreed reports for SOMTI.
- Concerning IPAP, the EU would propose that coordinators invite their business communities to communicate obstacles to investment to them in time for the coordinators meeting in March 2000. This will enable coordinators to forward them to the Investment Experts Group which will meet before SOMTI 6 in Seoul.

The implementation of EMM decisions on TFAP and IPAP would also be discussed at the 133 Deputies Meeting on 25 November.

The Working Party had no objection to such a letter. The Commission will circulate a copy of this letter to the Working Group. It was also agreed that it could be copied to the Chairman of the Asia Europe Business Forum.

- *Economic follow up to ASEM SOM, 2-4 November 1999*

The Commission recalled that the economic follow-up to the ASEM SOM is almost identical to that for the ASEM EMM (see above). The Commission also drew attention to a list of future meetings it had circulated.

The Presidency stated that preparations for ASEM 3 following discussions at the ASEM SOM in Rovaniemi would be pursued by the Group at its future meetings.

- *Consideration of Chinese proposal on ASEM High-Level Symposium on Investment Policies*

The Working Group considered the Chinese proposal on an ASEM High-Level Symposium on Investment Policies. The Presidency indicated that it would reply to China, asking for further clarification of this proposal. The Group will take up this item again when China provides clarifications.

- *Follow up to ASEM S & T Ministers' Meeting*

The Commission briefed on the results of the above meeting which had been successful. The Commission is pursuing the follow up, especially setting up of a communication and information flow facility in the world wide web open to the public, as well as a flow open to partners only. Regarding future meetings of senior S & T officials, these would take account of the role of ASEM Senior Officials. An ASEM network of contact points would also be set up in the S & T area.

III. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Presidency indicated that Germany would raise the question of humanitarian aid to North Korea under "Other Business" heading at the Foreign Affairs Council on 15 November.

Macau

The Presidency invited the Commission to circulate a copy of its communication on EU-Macau relations, even on an informal basis, with a view to discussion on 25 November and subsequent drafting of Council conclusions.

Next Meetings

The Presidency indicated that the next meeting of the Working Party would be held on 25 November at Regional Directors' level and would focus on political topics. A lunch for the Directors would also take place. The last scheduled meeting of the Group would take place on 16 December and could deal with political and economic items.
