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DECLASSIFICATION

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1999 - 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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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : the Asia/Oceania Working Party

dated: 16 September 1999

Subject: Meeting of the Asia/Oceania Working Group, Brussels, 16 September 1999. Report

Deadline for approval of operational conclusions : Wednesday, 22 September, 12h00

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

1. ASEM

- *Preparation of Economic Ministers' Meeting, 9/10 October 1999*

Germany will prepare a revised version of the Chairman's statement which it circulated.

Delegations are invited to send any drafting proposals for these Conclusions to the German delegation which, in contact with the Presidency, will prepare a revised draft, with a view to the meeting of ASEM Economic Coordinators in Brussels on 20 September. These proposals should also be copied to the Presidency and Commission.

The German delegation will also circulate information on logistics of the meeting, and on the Ministers who will be attending. The Presidency indicated that the 133 Committee will have the main responsibility for preparing certain items on the EMM agenda, especially WTO.

- *Preparation of ASEM SOM, Rovaniemi, 2-4 November*

The Presidency indicated that it will distribute a draft agenda for the SOM which is in preparation. It will also prepare, with the aid of the Secretariat and Commission, a note on the Vision Group with a view to discussion on 30 September or 7 October.

2. EC/ASEAN

- *Timetable for Meetings of Sub Committees of the EC-ASEAN JCC*

The Commission informed delegations that the EC-ASEAN sub-committee on the environment would take place in Brussels on 23 and 24 November. That on trade (as well as the ad hoc export group on market access, agreed at JCC in May) was likely to be held in Brussels in the first week of December (dates to be confirmed). Further details would be provided in due course.

- *Accession of Laos and Cambodia to the EC-ASEAN Agreement: Commission briefing on state of work*

The Commission indicated that it had begun its internal procedures to propose the opening of negotiations with Laos and Cambodia over accession to the EC-ASEAN agreement. It would be two to three months before a proposal for a negotiating mandate could be presented to the Council.

4. NEPAL

The group noted the preliminary agenda and the practical arrangements for the JCC EU-Nepal (Brussels, 7.10.99). The Commission will circulate the draft annotated agenda and a draft joint press communiqué before the next working group meeting on 30 September.

II. OTHER POINTS

ASEM

- *Preparation of Economic Ministers' Meeting, 9/10 October, Berlin*

The Working Party reviewed, in particular, the Draft Agenda, the provisional programme and discussed the draft Chairman's Statement. A number of delegations and the Commission made comments/suggestions for amendments to the text of the Statement.

Italy introduced a document on a Conference it will organize in Bari on 5 October 1999 on "Industrial Districts and International Transfer of Technology as a means to promote trade in goods and services".

BANGLADESH

The Commission briefed delegations on the state of play concerning the signature of the Cooperation Agreement with Bangladesh. The Group agreed to come back to this issue when the Bengali translation of the agreement will be available.

EAST TIMOR

Attention was drawn to attempts by East Timorese refugees to seek refuge in EU Missions in Jakarta. It was agreed to exchange information on such attempts by Coreu and/or through EU HOMs in Jakarta.

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